

Public consultation on Counterfeit and Piracy Watch-List

The European Commission - in the framework of the "Trade for all" communication and the EU's Strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries – launches a new initiative aiming at identifying online and physical marketplaces situated outside the European Union that are reported to engage in or facilitate substantial IPR infringements, and in particular piracy and counterfeiting.

On the basis of input from the stakeholders – after thorough verification of the received information – the European Commission intends to publish a so called "Counterfeit and Piracy Watch-List" in 2018, which will be updated regularly. The list will identify and describe the most problematic marketplaces - with special focus on online marketplaces - in order to encourage their operators and owners as well as the responsible local authorities and governments to take the necessary actions and measures to reduce the availability of IPR infringing goods or services. The owners and operators of these marketplaces will be urged to adopt business models that rely on the licensed distribution of legitimate content and products and to work with rightholders and enforcement officials to address infringements. The Commission will also monitor the measures and actions taken. The list will be an effective tool also to raise consumer awareness concerning the environmental, product safety and other risks of purchasing on these marketplaces.

Written contributions from stakeholders identifying marketplaces and their comments can be send **by 31 March 2018** on TRADE-COUNTERFEIT-AND-PIRACY-WATCH-LIST@ec.europa.eu. Contributions should be as detailed as possible, substantiated with supporting document and should clearly identify the marketplace and the reasons why it should be included in the Watch-List s.

After evaluation, the received contributions, including the identity of the Contributor, may be published on the European Commission's website.

For more information see https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/counterfeitpiracy_watchlist