

# Global Trade in Fake Goods Worth Nearly Half A Trillion Dollars: Study

PARIS - Imports of counterfeit and pirated goods are worth nearly half a trillion dollars a year, or around 2.5 percent of global imports, with U.S., Italian and French brands the hardest hit and many of the proceeds going to organized crime, according to a new report published Monday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the EU's Intellectual Property Office. The report puts the value of imported fake goods worldwide at 461 billion

U.S. dollars in 2013, compared with total imports in world trade of 17.9 trillion U.S. dollars. In a previous 2008 OECD study, fake goods accounted for up to 1.9 percent of global imports.

"The findings of this new report contradict the image that counterfeiters only hurt big companies and luxury goods manufacturers. They take advantage of our trust in trademarks and brand names to undermine economies and endanger lives," said OECD Deputy Secretary-General Doug Frantz, launching the report with EUIPO executive director Antonio Cam-

pinos. Fake products crop up in everything from handbags and perfumes to machine parts and chemicals. Footwear is the most-copied item though trademarks are infringed even on strawberries and bananas. Counterfeiting also produces knockoffs that endanger lives - auto parts that fail, pharmaceuticals that make people sick, toys that harm children, baby formula that provides no nourishment and medical instruments that deliver false readings.

The top countries whose companies had their intellectual property rights infringed in the 2011-13 seizures were the United States, whose

brands or patents were affected by 20 percent of the knock-offs, then Italy with 15 percent, and France and Switzerland with 12 percent each. Japan and Germany stood at 8 percent each while China was affected by 1 percent.

Postal parcels are the top method of shipping bogus goods, accounting for 62 percent of seizures over 2011-13, reflecting the growing importance of online commerce in international trade. (Xinhua)

## Greek PM, EU Commissioner Call for Growth-Oriented Policies, As Creditors Return

ATHENS - Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and visiting EU Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen on Monday urged the implementation of growth-oriented policies to pull the Greek economy out of its debt crisis, as international creditors returned to the Greek capital requesting additional austerity measures.

"After six years of austerity, it is time we spoke for growth, investments and job creation," the Greek leader said after meeting with the Euro-

pean commissioner for employment, growth, investment and competitiveness.

If there is growth, Greece can reach the goals agreed with its lenders under the third bailout sealed last July, Tsipras said.

"We are here to help you," Katainen told his Greek hosts, adding the European Union and the European Investment Bank can help private companies get financing. The European Commission is currently holding ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Yemen Peace Talks in Kuwait Delayed

KUWAIT - A new round of Yemen peace talks scheduled to begin in Kuwait on Monday has been delayed due to "developments over the last few hours" that led to some parties not showing up at the meeting, according to Kuwaiti officials and the UN special envoy to Yemen.

"We are working to overcome the latest challenges and ask the delegations to show good faith, participate in the talks in order to reach a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Yemen," UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh



Ahmed said on Monday after the delegation of Yemen's Houthis group and former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, both allied against a Saudi-led Arab coalition that backs Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu

Mansour Hadi, failed to arrive in Kuwait for the talks. "The next few hours are crucial," the UN envoy said, urging all sides to take their responsibility seriously and agree on comprehensive solutions.

It is hoped that the UN-brokered talks would end more than a year of Yemen's civil war and a Saudi-led military intervention, which have claimed more than 6,400 lives, over half of them civilians, and displaced millions, according to UN statistics.

A latest cease-fire kicked off on April 10 and was supposed to pave the way for Monday's talks, but both warring sides have complained of violations by the other side, including continued heavy shelling and air strikes. (Xinhua)

## No Secret Talks with US on Syria: Russia's Lavrov

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says there are no secret talks between Moscow and Washington over Syria.

"No secret negotiations are being conducted between Russia and the US," Lavrov said at a press conference on Monday, adding that a "normal regime of working consultation" is being conducted between the two sides as the "co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group and the co-chairs of the two target subgroups created in



that group." Lavrov noted that one subgroup "is on ceasefire and on the observance of its conditions and the second is on the solution of issues

that prevent the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the entire territory of Syria."

He added that "considerable" progress has been

made on both tracks.

A truce, brokered by the US and Russia, went into effect across Syria on February 27. However, it does not apply to terrorist groups such as Daesh and al-Qaeda's Syria branch, al-Nusra Front. The Saudi-backed opposition High Negotiations Committee (HNC) and representatives from the Syrian government are currently in Geneva for another round of UN-brokered peace talks aimed at finding ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## 4 People Killed in Turkey By Rockets Fired from Syria

ANKARA - Four Syrians were killed after five rockets fired from Syria hit the Turkish border province of Kilis Monday, announced the Kilis Governor's Office. Five Katyusha rockets fired from the Islamic State (IS) controlled Bab region in northern Syria, some hit an empty field in the Turkish province of Kilis while the rest of the rockets hit residential areas.

Four civilians, includ-

ing three children, were killed and six others were wounded during the continuous attack. Meanwhile, Turkish Artillery units retaliated by shelling IS posts near the border.

In addition, security measures have been heightened to their maximum along the border. Furthermore, a rural area close to the Topraktutan Border Post in Hatay's Yayladagi ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Thousands of British Firms Rager to Export: UKTI

LONDON - A total of 20,000 British businesses are interested in exporting through the government's Exporting is GREAT website, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) said Monday.

New figures from UKTI show over 20,000 businesses have expressed an interest since last November in exporting through government-brokered opportunities.

The news comes as the government kicks off its Exporting is GREAT Week.

UKTI, the government department leading Exporting is GREAT, said figures demonstrate a huge demand for British products and services overseas.

Over 6,000 export opportunities have been showcased on the exporting campaign site since November 2015, equating ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## EU Agri-Food Exports to China Increased Last Year: Report

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) agri-food exports to China, EU's second most important destination of agri-exports after the United States, in all major product groups increased in 2015, a latest EU report said on Monday.

According to the report, agri-food exports to China increased by 2.9 billion euros (3.28 billion U.S. dollars) in 2015. Exports in all major product groups increased with the most significant hike in commodities at 71 percent from 1 billion euros to 1.7 billion euros.

For example, the pork exports to China more than doubled (from 432 million euros to 934 million euros) in 2015 which demonstrates the importance of pig meat in EU exports to China. By product category, EU agri-food exports to China in 2015 were led by infant food with a share of 13 percent, followed by raw hides and skins (11 percent) which switched places when compared to 2014 as infant food showed a quicker export growth.

Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, is this week on a visit to China and Japan ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## China-India Cooperation to Have Profound Significance: Chinese FM

MOSCOW - Closer partnership between China and India will have positive and profound significance for the world, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Monday after meeting with his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj.

As two of the world's major developing countries and emerging markets, China and India should work together through the alignment of each other's development strategies, in order to facilitate the earlier realization of the Asian century, said Wang, who is here attending the

three-party talks with foreign ministers of Russia and India.

The two sides should give priority to implementing the consensus reached by leaders of both countries, and make plans for mutual high-level visits as well as exchanges at various levels, in a bid to advance the development of bilateral relations, Wang added.

As this year's G20 summit will be held in China and meetings of BRICS leaders are to take place in India, Wang said, the two countries should support each other's ef-



fort in this regard, so as to prove their roles in speeding up world economic recovery and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation among world nations, Wang added. Wang also called for more cooperation in areas of railway con-

struction, investment, tourism and cultural exchange.

Swaraj, for her part, pledged better coordination with China in political, economic and cultural fields for the benefit of both nations and peoples. (Xinhua)

## Spain Moves Closer to Fresh Election as Political Parties Fail to Strike Gov't Formation

MADRID - Spain on Monday moved closer to a fresh general election at the end of June after the left-wing Podemos party voted against supporting a pact between the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) and center-right Citizens to form a coalition government.

Monday's results showed that slightly under 150,000 members cast their vote in the ballot, with 88.32 percent of those who voted, opting to reject the conditions and just 11.7 percent choosing to support the proposal which was made

earlier in the month when Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias met representatives of both the PSOE and Citizens.

A political deadlock has existed in Spain since the Dec. 20 general elections produced a hung parliament.

Podemos and its associated parties have 69 members in the Spanish Congress and their support is vital if the PSOE and Citizens, who together have 130 members, are to win an investiture vote in the 350-seat chamber. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## EU Releases 1 Mln Euros As Initial Aid to Ecuador Quake Victims

BRUSSELS - The European Union here on Monday released 1 million euros (1.13 million U.S. dollars) as initial humanitarian aid to the victims of the earthquake in Ecuador.

The assistance will be delivered through EU's humanitarian partners in the country. According to a press release issued by the European Commission, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated upon the request of Ecuadorian authorities and the United Nations, requesting emergency assistance such as

urban search and rescue teams (USAR) and night lights as well as expertise.

The mobilization of assistance is coordinated through the Commission's Emergency Response Co-ordination Centre (ERCC), which closely monitors developments. Offers of assistance are incoming from Spain, France, Poland and other participating states.

First deployments are already underway since the early hours of Monday, with the EU facilitating logistics and co-financing ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Nieghbor News

### President Xi Calls for "People-Centric" Reform

BEIJING - The deepened reform China is implementing must be "people-centric" and just, President Xi Jinping said at a meeting of the Leading Group for Overall Reform on Monday.

"A people-centric approach should be implemented in all areas of development, addressing people's demands and concerns, and giving them more tangible benefits," Xi said.

The president, also head of the leading group, was joined at the meeting by deputy heads Li

Keqiang, Liu Yunshan and Zhang Gaoli, as well as other senior officials.

They approved a document regulating business operations by relatives of officials, a practice which has been extended to Beijing, Guangdong, Chongqing and Xinjiang on the basis of a trial in Shanghai. Other documents on management of civil servants, encouragement of honesty, construction of private schools, and protection of police officers were also approved. (Xinhua)

### Uzbekistan's GDP Increases By 7.5% in January-March

BISHKEK - Gross Domestic Product of Uzbekistan in January-March increased by 7.5% compared to the same period of the last year, the government's press service reported as a result of the cabinet of ministries meeting.

Participants of the meeting said despite a sharp decline in demand increasing uncertainty and tough competition in the world markets, the effective measures adopted by Uzbekistan on stimulation of the export enterprises ensure preser-

vation of export growth trends and positive foreign trade balance.

The state budget of Uzbekistan was executed with a surplus of 0.1% of GDP. Inflation rate did not exceed the forecast parameters, said the report.

The volume of industrial production grew by 7%, agriculture - 6.7%, services - 12.1%, retail trade turnover - 12.8%. The volume of investments increased by 8.5% including the foreign investments - 14.4%. (AKI)

### Turkmenistan, ESCAP to Expand Co-Op in Transportation Sphere

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have discussed the expansion of cooperation in transportation sphere, said the message from Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry.

ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). During the meeting, the parties emphasized the importance of international initiatives put forward by Turkmenistan for developing the international cooperation in the transportation and communication sphere.

They also pointed out the role of joint activities as part of the UN Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

SPECA was founded in 1998 based on the Tashkent Declaration signed by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as the executive secretaries of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and ESCAP. Later, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan joined the program. It is planned to hold the first global conference on sustainable transport system in Ashgabat in late 2016. (TINA)

### Iran Hails Syria Parliamentary Vote, Vows to Broaden Ties

TEHRAN - Iranian Majlis (parliament) speaker Ali Larijani has commended the recent "successful" parliamentary elections in Syria, saying the Islamic Republic will continue to broaden its already "close and extensive" cooperation with the Arab state.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's strategy is [based on] close and extensive cooperation with the government and nation of this country (Syria) with a view to establishment of stability, peace and security in the [Middle East] region," Larijani said in a message of congratulation to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Monday.

He added that the high turnout of the Syrian electorate despite "widespread political, psychological and secu-

rity pressure" and "futile attempts" by terrorist groups to prevent a massive public participation indicated the Syrians' "firm" support for President Assad.

Larijani said the Syrian people regard Assad as the symbol of resistance and their country's independence despite all-out aggression by terrorist elements and their regional and international supporters. The top Iranian parliamentarian expressed confidence that terrorist and extremist groups will soon be defeated in Syria.

The Syrian electoral commission announced late Saturday that the National Unity coalition, comprising the ruling Ba'ath Party and its allies, had won 200 of the 250 seats at the People's Assembly (Majlis al-Sha'ab). (Press TV)