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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.7.2025)

The European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) has addressed intellectual property (IP) crime for 2022-2025¹. Increased cooperation at national and European level led to 1.2 million counterfeit car parts seized in 2022/2023². IP crime will remain a sub-priority in the 2026-2029 EMPACT cycle³.

EU consumers are protected from counterfeit car parts through strict oversight by customs, consumer protection and market surveillance authorities. Furthermore, the Digital Services Act imposes due diligence obligations on providers of online platforms to address the dissemination of illegal content (e.g. counterfeits), ensure trader traceability and inform consumers that purchased illegal products through their services⁴. Moreover, consumers who unknowingly buy counterfeits, have the right to refund or compensation according to EU consumer laws. Awareness-raising campaigns about the danger of counterfeit car parts are run at national and EU level⁵. The Commission puts forward a comprehensive EU toolbox to address the risks brought by e-commerce imports of products, in particular unsafe, counterfeit or otherwise non-compliant products⁶.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Counterfeiting⁷ provides the framework for cooperation between IP rights holders and online platforms. A reflection is on-going to update the MoU to address notably the rise of counterfeits on social media platforms, whose providers are key actors in the counterfeiting distribution chain as stressed by the Commission Recommendation on measures to combat counterfeiting⁸. In 2024, the Commission and the

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/law-enforcement-cooperation/empact-fighting-crime-together_en.

² <https://www.euipo.europa.eu/en/publications/tackling-the-illicit-trade-of-counterfeit-automotive-spare-parts-in-the-eu>.

³ According to the Council conclusions on the enhancement of EMPACT and on EU crime priorities for the next EMPACT cycle 2026-2029 adopted on the 13 of June 2025, *Intellectual Property crime, counterfeiting of goods and currencies* is a sub-priority under the 7th EMPACT priority on *Economic and Financial Crimes*. More information available here: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/13/council-defines-eu-crime-fighting-priorities-for-next-years/>.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁵ See for example https://euipo.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document_library/observatory/documents/reports/2024_Operation_Spare_off/2024_SpareOff_Flyer_en.pdf and <https://inpi.justica.gov.pt/en-gb/INPI-News/Campaign-against-the-scourge-of-counterfeiting-with-Filipe-de-Albuquerque>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2025:37:FIN>.

⁷ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/intellectual-property/enforcement-intellectual-property-rights/memorandum-understanding-sale-counterfeit-goods-internet_en.

⁸ Commission recommendation of 19 March 2024 on measures to combat counterfeiting and enhance the enforcement of intellectual property rights, https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/commission-recommendation-measures-combat-counterfeiting-and-enhance-enforcement-intellectual_en.

European Union IP Office launched IP training for influencers to counter the promotion of counterfeits⁹.

⁹ This training is available on the Commission's Influencer Legal Hub, part 4: https://commission.europa.eu/live-work-travel-eu/consumer-rights-and-complaints/influencer-legal-hub_en.