



SINGAPORE CUSTOMS MEDIA STATEMENT

SINGAPORE CUSTOMS SEIZED 1.91 MILLION PACKETS OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES FROM 4 CONTAINERS

Four container-loads of cigarettes believed to be destined for the EU black market were seized by Singapore Customs. Following close cooperation between Singapore Customs and OLAF (the European Anti-Fraud Office), Singapore Customs intercepted four 40-foot containers in Singapore and seized 1.91 million packets (or 38.22 million sticks) of contraband cigarettes between 19 and 22 September 2008.

2 Singapore Customs received information that four containers of cigarettes, incorrectly manifested as furniture and home decorative items, were to be transhipped through Singapore. Singapore Customs officers then intercepted all four containers which were found to contain 1.91 million packets of contraband cigarettes, thus foiling this smuggling attempt.

3 Director-General of Customs, Singapore Customs Mr Fong Yong Kian said, "Singapore Customs will continue to work with OLAF and other international law enforcement agencies in the fight against transnational smuggling of contraband cigarettes."

4 Mr Franz-Hermann Brüner, Director General of OLAF thanked Singapore Customs for its timely and effective action. The actions taken by Singapore Customs had ensured that losses to member states of the European Union (EU) amounting to approximately 12 million Euros had been prevented. Singapore Customs intercepted 1.243 million packets and 1.213 million packets of illicit transnational cigarettes in 2007 and 2006 respectively.

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