



PRESS RELEASE:

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European Union Trade Project supports Workshop on Parallel Imports: Towards a Policy for PNG

A parallel import is a non-counterfeit product imported from another country without the permission of the intellectual property owner. Parallel imports are often referred to as grey products or grey imports and are implicated in issues of international trade and intellectual property. Some believe that parallel imports can benefit consumers by lowering prices and widening the selection and consumption of products available in the market, while others believe that they discourage intellectual property owners from investing in new and innovative products. Some also believe that parallel imports tend to facilitate copyright infringement. A number of parallel import issues in Papua New Guinea (PNG) have been brought to the attention of the Department of Trade Commerce and Industry (DTCI) in the recent past. However, government has yet to decide on a policy to guide the practice in this area.

Accordingly, the DTCI, in collaboration with the European Union Trade Related Assistance Programme, Phase Two (EU-TRA 2) will be facilitating a one day workshop, which aims at presenting the concept of Parallel Imports to key stakeholders and facilitating discussions using international good practices, concrete examples in PNG trade and other insights to help come up with a policy position that might best suit the interest of PNG. Invitations have been extended to many of the major import firms in PNG as well as government officials with an interest in this area. The one day workshop will take place at the Conference Room of the Office of the Secretary, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry on July 12, 2017 from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Dr. Claudius Preville, an economist, experienced trade negotiator and one of the long-term Technical Assistance experts funded by EU-TRA 2 is the facilitator of this workshop. Following the workshop, Dr. Preville and a team of officials from the DTCI will make some concrete proposals on the way forward in this area.

The EU-TRA 2 programme, which includes assistance in the areas of Trade Institutional Reform, Trade Policy and Trade Facilitation, is a four-year programme that runs until 2018 providing Technical Assistance and quality infrastructure and equipment to PNG.



Dr Claudius Preville leads a breakout discussion at the Parallel Imports Workshop.

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The European Union (EU) is represented by the Delegation of the EU to Papua New Guinea. HE Ioannis Giogkarakis-Argyropoulos is the Ambassador of the EU Delegation in Port Moresby. The European Union has 28 Member States including France and the UK, both also represented in PNG.

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