



Counterfeit currency

The crime of counterfeiting currency is as old as the creation of money itself. Recent developments in photographic, computer and printing technologies, along with the availability of low-cost equipment, have made the production of counterfeit money relatively easy.

The increasing quality of the counterfeit currency produced poses a serious threat to national economies, financial institutions and consumers worldwide. However, as a result of the diligence and international co-operation of law enforcement bodies, the effect of counterfeit currency as a global problem is being contained. The strong network of partnerships between the law enforcement community and private industry, encouraged by INTERPOL, is integral to seeking solutions to this problem.

Co-operation, communication and contacts

INTERPOL's programmes provide forensic support, operational assistance and technical databases in order to assist its member countries in the fight against counterfeit currencies.

Increasingly important are partnerships between law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and central banks, as well as with the security printing industry and high-grade suppliers. These partnerships bridge geographic, jurisdictional, cultural and organizational divisions, leading to comprehensive and co-ordinated solutions for combating modern financial crimes.

INTERPOL recognizes and fosters co-operation with other official law enforcement entities – such as the United States Secret Service and Europol – with innovative leaders in private industry, and with international organizations and central banks, such as the European Anti-Fraud Office, European Central Bank, the US Federal Reserve Bank and the Central Bank Counterfeit Deterrence Group.

INTERPOL's assistance

The 1929 Geneva Convention recognized INTERPOL as the International Central Office for the suppression of counterfeit currency. Today, member countries can call upon the General Secretariat for the following services:

- Classifying, analysing and storing genuine currency specimens and counterfeit banknotes;
- Circulating analytical reports among INTERPOL member countries;
- Determining whether suspect specimens are genuine or counterfeit;
- Allocating international indicatives to newly-discovered counterfeits (except for USD and Euro);
- Publishing descriptions of new counterfeit banknotes;
- Preparing and circulating tables of statistics on worldwide counterfeit currency trends;
- Organizing and/or participating in international counterfeit currency training courses, seminars and conferences, in order to stay abreast of latest technologies and to share best practices.

INTERPOL



“Public-Private” outreach

In an effort to address new trends in counterfeit currency, INTERPOL routinely participates in and hosts public-private events such as:

- Counterfeit currency seminars and information exchange;
- Law enforcement advisory groups with the central banking and security printing industry;
- Currency conferences with law enforcement bodies, security printers and central banks;
- International currency training.

Web-based tools

To address currency concerns within member countries, INTERPOL has developed the following web-based tools, which are available to law enforcement officials only via a secure website:

- ***Currency Bulletins*** – a monthly publication which provides current trends and specific details about genuine currencies.
- ***Currency List*** – a listing of currencies for all INTERPOL member countries with direct links to the respective national central banks.
- ***Early Warning Messages*** – a monthly publication, posted in conjunction with Europol and the European Central Bank to provide relevant trends involving counterfeit Euros.
- ***Counterfeit Alerts*** – a posting of newly-discovered counterfeit currencies, excluding the US dollar and the Euro, along with a detailed forensic analysis to warn a specific region of the INTERPOL community about the potential impact.
- ***Counterfeit Currency List*** – to disseminate information on known counterfeited currencies of the INTERPOL community (with the exception of the US dollar and the Euro), which have worldwide circulation and have exhibited a global impact.



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Contact information

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For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.