



9th MEDICRIME Plenary Meeting
Council of Europe. Strasbourg,
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THE ROLE FOR CUSTOMS IN THE XXI CENTURY

REGULATION (EU) No 952/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 9 October 2013, *Article 3*

Mission of customs authorities

Customs authorities shall be primarily responsible for the supervision of the Union's international trade, thereby contributing to fair and open trade, to the implementation of the external aspects of the internal market, of the common trade policy and of the other common Union policies having a bearing on trade, and to overall supply chain security.

Customs authorities shall put in place measures aimed, in particular, at the following:

- (a) protecting the financial interests of the Union and its Member States: **FISCAL CUSTOMS.**
- (b) protecting the Union from unfair and illegal trade while supporting legitimate business activity:
ENFORCEMENT CUSTOMS.
- (c) ensuring the security and safety of the Union and its residents, and the protection of the environment, where appropriate in close Cooperation with other authorities: **SECURITY CUSTOMS.**
- (d) maintaining a proper balance between customs controls and facilitation of legitimate trade: **FACILITATING CUSTOMS.**





CUSTOMS SURVEILLANCE SERVICE AREA OF ACTING



1. CUSTOMS & EXCISE FRAUD.-



2. SMUGGLING and DRUG TRAFFICKING.-



3. MONEY LAUNDERING:



4. Cooperation with other TAX AGENCY AREAS (Tax fraud and underground economy):



5. Cooperation / Exchange information with OTHER LEA's:

Policía Nacional, Policía Local, Guardia Civil.



6. Supporting JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS.





Agencia Tributaria

www.agenciatributaria.es



Agencia Tributaria
Department of Customs and Excise

CECOP

OPERATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER (24/7)

Av. Llano Castellano, 17 28071 (MADRID) SPAIN
Telf.: +34 91 728 98 30 / +34 91 728 97 43 / +34 618 25 24 98
Fax: + 34 91 358 34 17 Email: va.adu@aeat.es



CASE STUDY: IGHARB OPERATION





PRESS RELEASE:

DISMANTLED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

FINAL DESTINATION: PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF A NARCOTIC SUBSTANCE IN MOROCCO, KNOWN AS "KARKUBI"

EFFECTS INTERVENED:

493,540 tablets of RIVOTRIL.

80,000 tablets of MECLONAZEPAN.

27,500 Euros in cash.

1 High-end vehicle.



THE LARGEST SEIZURE OF RIVOTRIL AND CLONAZEPAM PILLS IN SPAIN.

MORE THAN HALF A MILLION TABLETS SEIZED IN SPAIN AND MOROCCO,

VALUE ON THE ILLICIT MARKET: MORE THAN 2,600,000 EUROS.



SUMMARY

Origin of the investigation: Information exchange between the Police Cooperation Center of Tangier MED, intervention by authorities of a van belonging to a transport company in Lérida (Spain) in which more than 4,000 grams of cocaine and 360,000 tablets of Rivotril, Valium and Trankimazin were found.

Existence of a criminal organization with strong roots in the city of Lérida (Spain): obtaining different medicines, such as Rivotril, Valium and Trankimazin, for the subsequent manufacture of the drug known as "KARKUBI" in Morocco.

The medicines are obtained by forging prescriptions, using people with police records and those addicted to narcotic substances (these products are usually prescribed to habitual drug users).

The medicines are sent by the organization to Morocco, where the clandestine laboratories for the production of "KARKUBI" are located.

I. Research exploitation: First phase.

Using a parcel delivery company in Lérida:

A shipment of merchandise (commercial shipment) is being managed for Ceuta, involving two industrial ovens. There, it would be picked up by a person who would transport it the city of Casablanca (Morocco).

CNP and SVA investigators visited the transport company's warehouse and opened the aforementioned package: two boxes, each containing an oven.

A total of **348 cans bearing the commercial legend Trankimazin 2 mg** are hidden in the interior compartments. An approximate total of **80,000 tablets** is estimated.

Expert report from the Central Customs Laboratory:
It is a substance called **MECLONAZEPAN**.



II. Research exploitation: Second phase

As a result of the aforementioned apprehension, **the organization changes the method of transport.**

From the port of Sète (France) to Nador, **using a ferry to** move the drug in a vehicle. From Nador the vehicle would continue by road to Casablanca (Morocco).

Thanks to **international cooperation**, the Spanish liaison coordinates with the French authorities the establishment of a surveillance device with the aim of identifying this person, the vehicle and proceeding to the seizure of this substance.

As a result of this device, an individual of Moroccan origin, driving a vehicle with Spanish license plates, was intercepted. **Inside the aforementioned vehicle, 70,000 RIVOTRIL pills are seized**



III. Research exploitation: Third phase.

Part of the organized group based in Lérida is in a position to **move a significant quantity of medicines to deal in Morocco.**

Potential transporters are located and surveillance of them is intensified.

The enforcement responsible for the investigation ordered the interception of the vehicle, the arrest of the occupants and the intervention of the possible substance, **intercepting the amount of 62,000 tablets of RIVOTRIL** in their blister packs, hidden in a trolley-type suitcase and a large bag.

The final destination of the **210,000 pills seized** in these three phases of the operation, both Rivotril and Meclonazepam, was the clandestine laboratories for the production of "Karkubi", possibly located in Morocco.





IV . Research exploitation: Final phase.

The main leaders of the organization were arrested, with a total of **four house searches and five arrests**.

The leader of the organization, of Moroccan origin, was arrested in Lérida. 300 Rivotril pills and 27,000 euros were seized at his home.

Finally, **the organization's main supplier of pills was arrested in Alicante**, and small quantities of different pills that the supplier had kept as samples were seized.

The operation ended with the **seizure of more than 500,000 pills in Spain and Morocco**, whose final destination was the production of "Karkubi," a widely used drug in Morocco.

The value of these pills on the black market exceeds 2,600,000 euros.



PICTURES





“El Resguardo de Tabacos”. Fco. de Goya.

¡¡ THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!

P. Alberto Álvarez Otero
Customs Surveillance Service
Tax & Customs Agency Madrid (Spain)
E-mail: pedroalberto.alvarez@correo.aeat.es



Agencia Tributaria

www.agenciatributaria.es