SPANISH ANTICOUNTERFEITING FRAMEWORK. CASE STUDY: DISMANTLING 500€ PRINTSHOP

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL FINANCIAL CONDUCT AND BANKNOTES
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ORGANIZATION OF FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

Anti-counterfeiting in Spain

Judicial authorities
Policing
Expertise

Link to video:
The Criminal Code (Article 386)

- Those who **counterfeit** or **alter** it.
- Those who **import** it into Spain or any other EU Member State.
- Those who **export**, **transport**, **spend** or **distribute** it while knowing that it is counterfeit.

- **8 to 12 years**
- **x 10**

- **3 to 6 months**
- **6 to 24 months**

- Those who spending or distributing it, after discovering that it is counterfeit, despite having received it in good faith.
BIBE (Spain NCO): Main functions and obligations

- The gathering and analysis of data relating to euro counterfeiting.
- Coordination with any law enforcement agencies.
- Transmit suspected counterfeit euro banknotes and coins to the NAC/CNAC.
- The investigation and prosecution of offences related to the counterfeiting.
- Information sharing between the NCO and the Europol National Unit.
- The implementation of the rapid alert and coordination procedures.
- Cooperation in order to protect the euro against counterfeiting.
NAC /CNAC: Main functions and obligations

- The gathering and analysis of technical and statistical data relating to counterfeit euro banknotes and coins.

- The analysis and identification of suspected counterfeit euro banknotes.

- The issue of technical reports at the request of the judicial or police authorities.

- Cooperation in order to protect the euro against counterfeiting.
ORGANIZATION OF FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

BANK OF SPAIN

Directorate General Financial Conduct and Banknotes

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Directorate General of Police

Double Dependency

CNA - CNAM

- Specialists
- Technical Resources
- Technical Data Bases

bibe

- Police force
- Police Data Bases
INTRODUCTION: TIMELINE
Dismantling a printshop of 500€ counterfeits

08/2019
First detection

11/2019
Starting to share statistical information

03/2020
First variant detection

09/2022
Operation day: dismantling

10/2019
Police operation “Las vegas”

02/2020
NAC alert of possible relation with a previous counterfeit

08/2021
More than 4 million euro seizure

10/2022
Looking for evidence
BACKGROUND OF THE POLICE OPERATION
Possible relation with a previous dismantling

Former seizure 2009
COUNTERFEIT

Indicative 2019
COUNTERFEIT
• **Printing methods:**  
  Offset printing on both sides (linework).  
  Silkscreen printing of color-changing number.  
  Letterpress printing of serial numbers.

• **Embossing** to simulate the intaglio printing.

• Offset-printed **watermark** (back side).

• **Physical security thread** without micro-text.

• High-quality **hologram** applied by hot foil stamping.

• **Color-changing number** with colour shift similar to the genuine.

• **Fluorescent fibres** and **inks**.

• Well-imitated **IR properties**.

• Imitation of **magnetic properties**.
Evolution over time of classes New indicative 2019 and Variant 2020 in Spain (Number of counterfeits detected in circulation per month and year)
**POLICE OPERATION DETAILS**

Casino operation

- **Action day:** 21/09/2022
- **Main participation of:** BIBE, National Police, Mossos d'Esquadra (in total, 10 units were involved). **Coordination** by Europol
- **Simultaneous police actions** in five Spanish provinces: Alicante, Valencia, Málaga, Barcelona and Teruel
- **10 searches** led to the detention of 12 people
- **Searches:** seven houses, one caravan and two warehouses
EQUIPMENT SEIZED IN “LA NUCIA”

Industrial warehouse in “La Nucia” (Alicante): professional printing presses and products used in the printing industry were seized.
During the Investigation
Technical and statistical information

Action day of the police operation
Physical presence on action day

Coordination

Transparency

Mutual collaboration

After the dismantling
Analysis of seized materials and technical reports
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION