



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC REVENUE



OPERATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER

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PRESS RELEASE

DISMANTLING OF A CRIMINAL GROUP INVOLVED IN FUEL ADULTERATION.

Under the coordination of the Operational Coordination Center Against Smuggling of Excisable Products (O.C.C.), a criminal group, the members of which were importing organic solvents from Bulgaria for fuel adulteration, was disrupted.

More specifically, O.C.C. assessed the intelligence provided by the Mobile Investigation Unit of Serres Customs (Greek-Bulgarian borders) that a suspicious truck entered Greece from Bulgaria, carrying organic solvents. The truck was set under surveillance, initially by the Customs and then by the Financial Police, until its final destination. Two lead vehicles and the truck ended up in an illegal storehouse in Koropi – Attica prefecture (suburbs of Athens).

On Sunday 10 Jun.2018, the Financial Police and the Mobile Investigation Unit of B' Custom of Piraeus raided the above storehouse.

Five (5) persons - three Greek citizens, one Moldavian and the Bulgarian truck driver - were arrested for violation of the National Customs Code, fuel smuggling and infringement of the legislation on the market organization in the oil product.

They were seized:

- 26,000 lt. of organic solvents loaded on the truck
- 17,000 lt. stocked in the warehouse
- the amount of 25,500€
- (1) truck
- (2) vehicles
- (1) lifting truck

The proportionate excise duties and taxes are estimated at 43,000€.

Further investigation revealed the connection between the aforementioned illegal load of organic solvents and two gas stations located in Attica and Imathia (Northern Greece).

A joint team of the B' Customs of Piraeus and the Financial Police was sent to the first gas station in Attica, where it was verified that it was running without the required operating license. The preliminary sample check resulted to the existence of organic solvents in its fuel tanks.

A joint team of A' Customs of Thessaloniki and the Police Division of Imathia was sent to the second gas station located in Imathia. An undeclared underground fuel tank, which contained 2,500 liters of organic solvents, was discovered.

Samples of the organic solvents from the truck and both gas stations were sent for further analysis.

The arrested persons were taken to the Prosecutor.