



PRESS RELEASE

Organized Crime Group (OCG) smuggling alcoholic beverages and ethyl alcohol from Bulgaria was dismantled. Alcoholic beverages were relabeled as Greek and stored alcohol was processed and distributed to liquor stores.

Two illegal distilleries and four warehouses were located.

Fourteen (14) OCG members arrested, OCG leader including.

Proportionate duties and taxes of the seized quantities amount to EUR 810,490.

On Thursday, 20/02/2020, Hellenic Financial Police, with the co-operation of OCC of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR), dismantled an organized criminal group (OCG) that smuggled alcoholic beverages and ethyl alcohol from Bulgaria.

The beverages and the alcohol were stored in warehouses, processed when needed, and finally supplied to liquor stores. At the final stage of the operation, under OCC's coordination, other IAPR agencies provided assistance, namely the Audit Office of Attica Customs (ELYT) along with the Mobile Control Units, the Athens Customs House, the A' Piraeus Customs House and the General Chemical State Laboratory.

In total, in six sites in Athens (specifically in Egaleo, Piraeus, Vironas, Pagrati, Dafni and Ilion area), 14 OCG members were arrested and 19,140 liters of ethyl alcohol 96°, 21,901 bottles of alcoholic beverages with various labels on them and 3,431.45 liters of alcoholic beverages in containers without indications, were seized. Proportionate duties and taxes of the seized quantities amount to EUR 810,490.

Also seized: three (3) lorries, two (2) VAN Pickups, one (1) car, mechanical equipment - cauldrons, for the illegal preparation of alcoholic beverages, mobile phones, many counterfeit labels, and EUR 3,805 cash.

On 21/02/2020, a case was filed against the arrested members and they were led to Athens Public Prosecutor's Office.