



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC REVENUE



OPERATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE (OCC)

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PRESS RELEASE

Organized crime group importing chemical solvents (fuel adulterants) from Bulgaria dismantled. Four persons arrested; two trucks, two tankers, and more than 60,000 liters of chemical solvents seized.

An organized crime group trafficking illegal chemical solvents from Bulgaria in order to use them for diesel and heating oil adulteration was dismantled, thanks to the efforts of the OCC, the Police and the Customs Services. The case is of utmost importance since towards its success, the effective cooperation of three Services, namely the Mobile Customs Units, the Customs Services and the Financial Police, was a prerequisite.

During the course of the case and after thorough assessment of facts, the operation was entrusted to the Directorate of Financial Police, while the assistance of the Mobile Customs Units of the B Customs Office of Piraeus was requested.

The investigation was carried out at the parking lot of the transportation company in the area of Aspropyrgos, and led to the detection and seizure of the following:

- **two (2) cargo-trailers containing in total thirty (35) plastic tanks with a capacity of one thousand (1,000) liters each, filled with chemical solvents,**
- **an aboveground plastic tank with a capacity of ten thousand (10,000) liters, filled with a mixture of organic solvents,**
- **an underground tank with a capacity of twelve thousand (12,000) liters, filled with a mixture of organic solvents,**
- **two (2) tractors with Cyprus plates, and**
- **an unlicensed fuel pump**

Furthermore, there were seized two tanker trucks, with a capacity of 6,000 liters. The tanks or the trucks had previously been filled with solvents coming from the aforementioned cargo-trailers, at the parking lot.

- The 1st tanker truck was immobilized at a fuel station in Ymittos, owned by one of the four arrested persons. The truck had previously supplied with chemical solvents a tank of an apartment building in the area of Nea Erithrea. 4,600 liters were found in the tank of the truck.
- The 2nd tanker truck was located and seized in the area of Metamorfoysi in Attiki region.

The samples taken from the plastic tanks, the aboveground tank, the underground tank, the tanker trucks and the tanks of the apartment building and the fuel station, were sent to the competent Chemical Service.

The relevant duties, taxes and charges for the seized quantity, found in the 35 plastic tanks of one thousand liters and the 10,000 liters' aboveground tank, amount to 43,569.89 Euros. It is estimated that this amount will exceed 60,000 Euros after the addition of relevant duties and taxes corresponding to the underground tank and the two tanker trucks.

The arrested persons, with the file that was filed against them, were brought to the competent Prosecutor's Office.