



European Semiconductor Industry Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over one million counterfeit semiconductors seized – ESIA supported customs operation with expertise

Brussels, 3 July 2017 – ESIA, the European Semiconductor Industry Association, welcomes the announcement of the outcomes of an EU-wide Joint Customs Operation (JCO), coordinated by Dutch Customs and carried out in cooperation with the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and customs authorities from twelve EU Member States in 2016.

The JCO, code-named “*Operation Wafers*”, targeted counterfeit semiconductors imported into the EU from China & Hong Kong by Post / Express Courier, and was successful in seizing more than one million counterfeit semiconductor devices during the operational phase lasting two weeks. The distribution and sale of counterfeit semiconductors can pose a potential risk for the safety & health of consumers as well as for threats to critical national infrastructures.

“*Operation Wafers*” was co-ordinated by Dutch Customs with the financial, technical, and logistical support of OLAF, as well as the cooperation of Europol and customs authorities from another eleven EU Member States¹. ESIA provided extensive customs training sessions and intelligence to the participating authorities, and assisted in the identification of suspected counterfeit semiconductors.

ESIA is looking forward to further strengthening the relations with EU & Member States’ authorities in preventing counterfeit semiconductors from entering the Single Market. The European semiconductor industry would like to sincerely thank Dutch Customs, Member States’ customs authorities, OLAF, the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and Europol for their continued commitment to the fight against counterfeiting.

ESIA remains committed in its fight against counterfeits, to curb the potential threat they pose for critical national infrastructure, and the safety & health of consumers.

¹ That being: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Lithuania, Romania, Poland, Portugal, and Slovakia.

ESIA is an Industry Association of:

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ABOUT ESIA

The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) is the voice of the Semiconductor Industry in Europe. Its mission is to represent and promote the common interests of the Europe based semiconductor industry towards the European Institutions and stakeholders in order to ensure a sustainable business environment and foster its global competitiveness. As a provider of key enabling technologies the industry creates innovative solutions for industrial development, contributing to economic growth and responding to major societal challenges. Being ranked as the most R&D intensive sector by the European Commission, the European Semi-conductor ecosystem supports approx. 200.000 jobs directly and up to 1.000.000 induced jobs in systems, applications and services in Europe. Overall, micro- and nano-electronics enable the generation of at least 10% of GDP in Europe and the world.