Danish Inter-agency Cooperation

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- Panel Discussion

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The Danish Ministerial Network against IPR Infringements
- established in 2008

Participants:
- State Prosecutor for Serious Economic and International Crime
- National Commissioner of Police
- Ministry of Culture
- Danish Customs
- Danish Safety Technology Authority
- National Competition and Consumer Authority
- Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
- Danish Health and Medicines Authority
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Danish Business Authority
- Danish Patent and Trademark Office
  (secretariat – responsible for taking the lead)
The Danish Ministerial Network against IPR Infringements

The Network was established to;

• Improve coordination and knowledge sharing between public authorities

• Ensure drive in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy

• Awareness raising; consumers and businesses

• Continuous dialogue with the industry

• Implement initiatives from the 2008 cross-ministerial report (eg higher penal sanctions => 6 years imprisonment)
Network established website;

[www.stopfakes.dk](http://www.stopfakes.dk) (English) and [www.stoppiratkopiering.dk](http://www.stoppiratkopiering.dk) (Danish)

- Guides for consumers and businesses
- **Case Law database**
  (all criminal cases!)
- News (in Danish)
- Reports/statistics
- Legislation
The Danish Ministerial Network against IPR Infringements

How we work - I

The Plenary meetings;

• Two annual plenary meeting on pre-established dates (March and September)

• The 11 authorities take turns in hosting the meetings (1 day)

• All Network members must participate each time or find a substitute
The Danish Ministerial Network against IPR Infringements

How we work - II

• No legal basis for the Network in legislation (but could be established in the future)

• Established with basis in a cross-ministerial report on fighting counterfeiting and piracy (from 2008) + Terms of Reference

• No rules on decision-making processes
  - so in principle unanimity
  - but so far not a problem in practice
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How we work - III

- Recurring agenda points as well as ad hoc topics
- All authorities contribute to the dialogue
- Main advantage; The Network has fostered close working relationships and coordination between the authorities
- Also cooperation on international enforcement actions
Cooperation on international enforcement actions

Recurring actions:

• Operation **Opson** (counterfeit food)

• Operation **In Our Sites** (to shut down commercial websites engaged in sale of counterfeit goods or copyrighted works)

• Operation **Pangea** (falsified medicine)
Structured dialogue meetings with industry

- 2 pre-established annual meetings on recurring dates between the Network and the industry representatives (May and November)

- The topic changes (and also the participants)

- The Network and the industry representatives decide on the topics together

Flexible set-up!

...and not least; informal dialogues and exchange of information on ad hoc issues.
Capacity building for enforcement authorities

- 3-day course in Denmark (both in 2013 and 2014)

- Participants from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, Poland, and Serbia.
  - police, prosecutors, customs authorities
  - and from Denmark also the Danish Health and Medicines Authority, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and the Danish Patent and Trademark Office

- Tailor-made for the purpose (arranged by the DKPTO/Danish State Presecutor for Serious Economic and International Crime/The Observatory/Europol)

- Cases and workshops

- Financed by the Observatory
Selected results

- Increased criminal penalties (up to 6 years of imprisonment)
- Information website (www.stopfakes.dk)
- Cooperation on enforcement actions
- Case Law database (criminal IPR judgments)
- Developed standard form for reporting IPR crimes to the police
- Contributing to IPR guidelines for police and prosecutors
- Organizing training seminars for public enforcement authorities
**Report** on “Inter-Agency Cooperation at National and International Level”

by The European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights

**Inspiration?** (Not “one size fits all”)

- Describes inter-agency cooperation in 25 European countries (90 pages)

- Best practices;

  - All EU Member States should consider establishing an inter-agency cooperation structure (where they do not already have one)
  
  - Desirable to have only one agency lead the cooperation effort
  
  - Should explore how to involve the judiciary
  
  - Private stakeholders should be given the opportunity of participating
  
  - The possibility of cross border cooperation should be part of Member States’ inter-agency cooperation
Questions?

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