





#### REGIONAL CONFERENCE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND SPORTS

Ljubljana, May 28 and 29

**IP Infringements Relating to Sporting Goods** 

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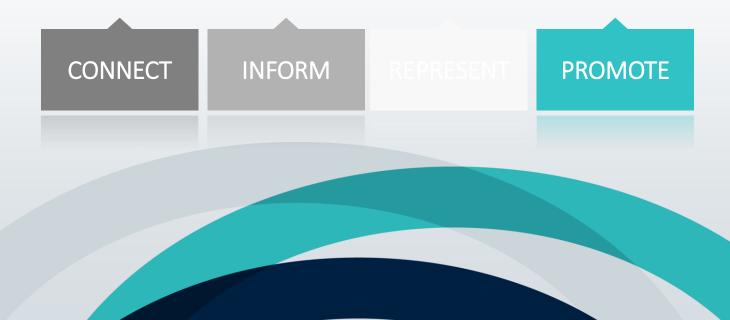


# **OVERVIEW**

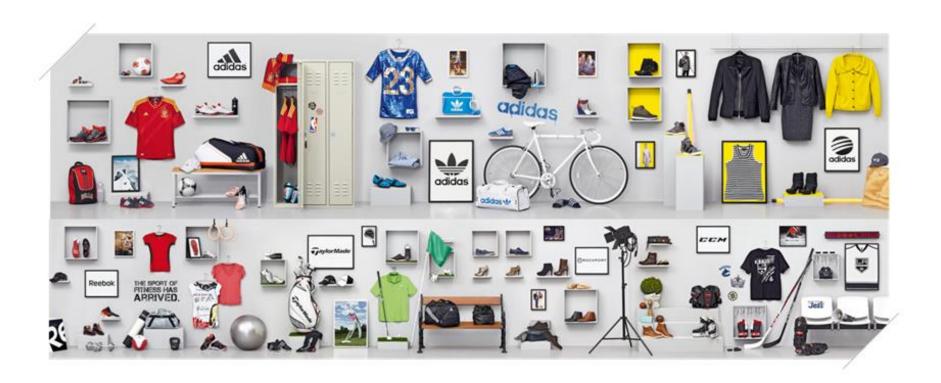
- WFSGI = World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry
- Independent association formed in 1978 by sports brands, manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, national organizations and all sporting goods industry related businesses
- World authoritative body for the sports industry recognized as the global voice of the sporting goods industry
- Non-profit organization and with no objective of economic character for its own gain
- Non-governmental association officially recognized by the IOC as the industry representative within the IOC family
- The Federation exists to serve its members

# THE WFSGI'S MISSION





#### **BRAND PORTFOLIO OF ADIDAS GROUP**





## THE PREMIER LEAGUE OF IP RIGHTS OF MOST VALUABLE IP ASSETS\*)



No. 17



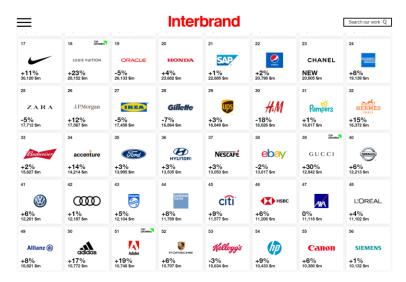


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<sup>\*)</sup>Source: Best Global Brands 2018 Interbrand <a href="https://www.interbrand.com/best-brands/best-global-brands/2018/ranking/">https://www.interbrand.com/best-brands/best-global-brands/2018/ranking/</a>



## THE PREMIER LEAGUE OF IP RIGHTS OF MOST VALUABLE IP ASSETS\*)







#### **BUT REMEMBER!!!**

















(8)



The Sporting Goods Industry consists largely of SMEs Small is Beautiful

# WHAT ARE 'SPORTING GOODS' ??











#### SOME TYPES OF IP RIGHTS INFRINGEMENTS IN SPORTS





FALSE TICKETS

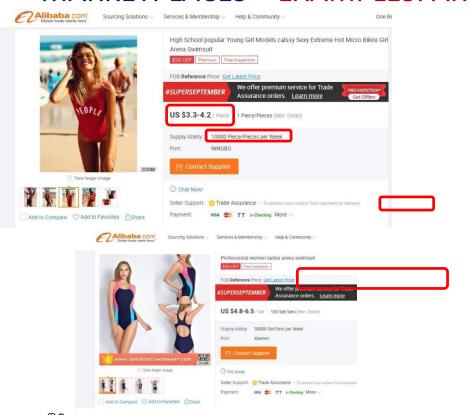
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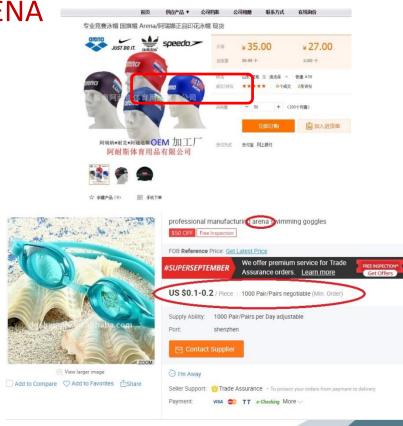


**AMBUSH MARKETING** 

# COUNTERFEIT LISTINGS ON THE MAJOR ONLINE

MARKETPLACES – EXAMPLES: ARENA

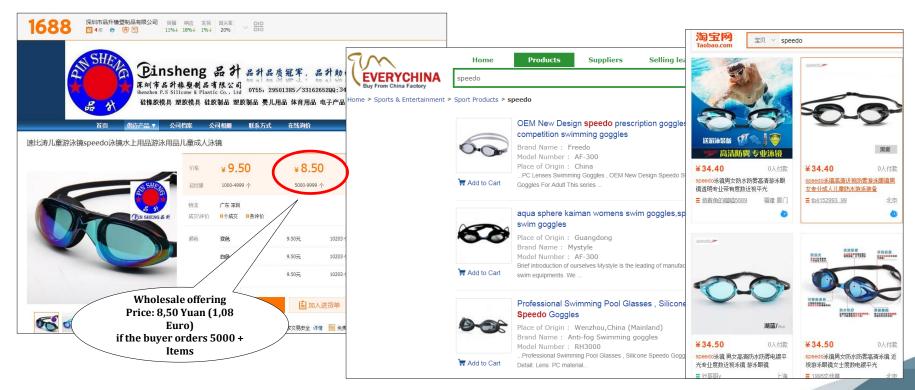




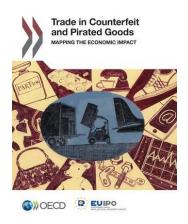
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## COUNTERFEIT LISTINGS ON THE MAJOR ONLINE

## MARKETPLACES – EXAMPLES: SPEEDO



# COUNTERFEITS – ONE OF THE MAJOR PLAGUES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



OECD / EUIPO Study on the Economic Impact of the Trade in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods published on April 18, 2016

©OECD EUIPO 2016

## **SOME KEY FACTS\*)**

- \*) SOURCE: OECD EUIPO STUDY APRIL 2016
- In 2013: trade in fakes represented up to **2.5 %** of world trade, i.e. as much as **461 Billion USD**;
- Counterfeit and Pirated Products amounted up to 5% of all imports in 2013 in the EU, i.e. to 85 Billion EUR;
- Given the fundamental importance of intellectual property ("IP") in an innovation driven global economy, counterfeiting and piracy must be directly targeted as a threat to sustainable IP-based business models.
- Nearly all kinds of products are counterfeited from luxury and B2B products to common consumer products including the food sector.





This 21st Century plage has also to be attacked with the technology tools of the 21st Century

#### **SOME ADDITIONAL KEY FACTS**

- To purchase Counterfeits is NOT a Petty Offense, ONE IS NOT THE 'SMART BUYER' AS MANY CONSUMERS PERCEIVE THEY ARE
- > WHY is this the case?????



#### CONCRETE PROGRAMS TO PROTECT IP AT WFSGI LEVEL





Fight Offline physical stores/locations

1

Trusted investigators & cooperation for enforcement operations: WFSGIIP contacts database

2

Authentication Project: bicycles + other brands

3

Customs Authorities: partnership with the WCO (IPM tool – free the 1st year)



Fight Online Internet

4

Online abuses: Convey Srl.

#### LIMITS OF THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH

#### Method

The rights owner is approaching the infringer by:

- > sending an Cease and Desist Letter and/or
- commencing court and/or administrative proceedings

The Risk is: Such way to attack is frequently doomed to failure
Some reasons:

- ➤ IP rights Infringers (in particular in Far East) conceal their true identity and frequently operate with hundreds of alter egos;
- > C& D letters are frequently nothing but a piece of (toilet) paper for criminal and notorious counterfeiters;
- > Court proceedings take frequently (too) long with uncertain results;
- The internet is constantly changing, contents pop up and disappear within fractions of (nanoseconds).





### CONCRETE PROGRAMS TO PROTECT IP AT WFSGI LEVEL





## Fight against Online IP Infringements



#### Since 2014:

- 30 + brands participating;
- 200 + market places are covered;
- 550,000 + take downs of illegal offerings;
- 1.2 Million blockings of illegal transactions with a estimated commercial value of USD 40 Million;
- 110,000 + illegal accounts and/or web shops operated by IP infringers have been closed;
- 11,000 + counterfeit shops were closed hosted on privately owed web sites and domain names.

# NOTHING AS CONVINCING BUT FIGURES:



## Decrease of counterfeit sales with focus on a real case after one year of activities







Monthly counterfeit turnover has decreased from 956.908 € (OCT-15) to 1.387 € (JUN-17)











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