

# Illegal Plant Protection Products

- the role of the proposed Official Controls Regulation

# Counterfeit & illegal pesticides

## *Growing awareness of in the EU*

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### OC-SCAN POLICY BRIEF

#### **Growth in the trade in counterfeit and other illegal pesticides across Europe**

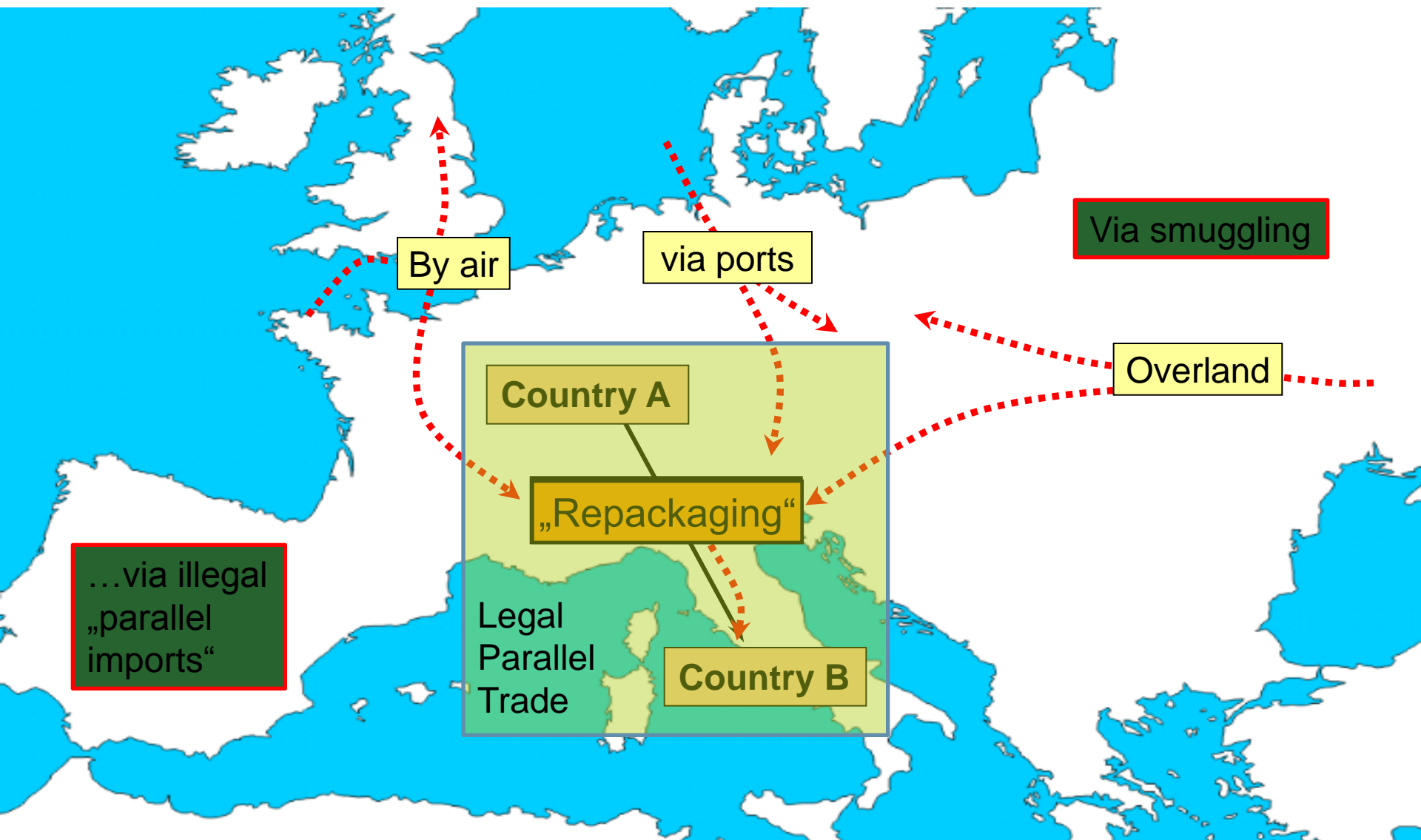
The global revenues associated with the trade in counterfeit and other illegal pesticides are estimated at more than 4.4 billion Euros per annum. The illegal trade in pesticides represents over 10 per cent of the total worldwide market, which has an end-user value of 44 billion Euros. To varying degrees, the use of illegal pesticides has been detected across Europe. In North East Europe, a region particularly targeted by the criminal networks involved in this activity, more than 25 per cent of the pesticides in circulation in some European Union (EU) Member States are estimated to originate from the illegal pesticide trade. However, most European countries with a large agricultural sector are affected by this threat.



Destruction of maize crops in several EU MS in 2004, due to the use of illegal pesticides with a harmful composition of sulfonylurea derivatives.

# Counterfeit & illegal pesticides

## *How do they reach the EU market?*



# Official Controls Regulation

## *ECPA recommendations*

- ECPA recommends regular spot checks throughout the supply chain regardless of the packaging size of the PPP
  - Risk based controls should include products both from authorisation and parallel import permit holders
  - Spot-sampling for analysis of the composition is necessary
- Competent authorities should be able and equipped to take or demand samples in spot checks (inc. undercover test purchases)



# Counterfeit & illegal pesticides

## *Key Points*

- Parallel trade licenses are increasingly being misused to introduce illegal PPPs into the EU market
  - Important that parallel trade is specifically defined as an area covered by the proposed Official controls legislation
- Controls should apply throughout the supply chain, not just at point of sale and use (regardless of packaging size)
- Coordination essential (e.g. between PPP & customs authorities) to ensure controls & information exchange
- ECPA proposes:
  - a central database on formulation and repackaging plants all over the EU should be created
  - Transparent & proportionate basic fees when non-compliance is established
- Competent authorities should be able and equipped to take or demand samples in sport checks