
[European Commission's proposal concerning the Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy](#)

In 2009, the Council and the Commission launched the [European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy](#) to better understand IPR infringements. Recently, however, the Council and the Parliament adopted regulations requesting that further responsibilities be added to the Observatory. In addition, a recent study commissioned by the Commission recommended that this platform “*be upgraded into [...] a single point of contact within the EC for external parties, and an international point of creation and dissemination of best practice.*”

In this context, the Commission published a proposal for a regulation with the objective to add additional responsibilities to the Observatory. According to this proposal, OHIM is entrusted with the management of the Observatory, which includes:

- *“delivering independent data and assessments on the scope and scale of counterfeiting and piracy in the internal market;*
- *exchanging and promoting best practices in relation to public authorities;*
- *spreading of best private sector strategies;*
- *raising public awareness;*
- *evaluating the need for and designing European training programmes for authorities involved in the protection of intellectual property rights, in cooperation with other international and European institutions and agencies;*
- *carrying out research on technical tools to prevent counterfeiting and piracy; and*
- *fostering international cooperation and providing technical assistance to third country authorities.”*

This proposal still requires formal adoption by the Parliament and the Council. Nevertheless, until then the Commission has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) allowing OHIM to provide technical cooperation and support to the Observatory.

For more, see

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/iprenforcement/docs/observatory/com_2011...

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