

Status of illicit tobacco trade in the EMR region; highlights

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**World Health
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Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



EMR: Overall decline but problems remain

Middle East and Africa Illicit Trade % Volume Growth 2015-2016 is - **8.9 %**



Tobacco smuggling is to & from & across EM

ruining our nation's youth.

Smuggled packs of famous multinational cigarette brand "Marlboro" are commonly sold in the markets of Pakistan. The cigarette box have clear markings of "for export only" mentioned on it hints on the fact that it is not meant to be sold in the local market.

As per Framework Alliance Report, the taxes evaded by such organised methods amounts to billions. Another lucrative smuggling that involves billions in revenue is that of vehicles. Around 2,000 non-Customs paid vehicles and spareparts are smuggled

Kuwait City: The Customs authorities have foiled an attempt to smuggle of big quantity of tobacco products.

The officers on duty at the Nuwaiseb crossborder point searched a car driven by a Saudi national and discovered 981 boxes of cigarettes which were on their way to Saudi Arabia

"The boxes of cigarettes were hidden in roof, doors seats and spare wheels of the car", said Customs Media Committee Bilal Al-Khamis, adding that legal action had been taken against the smuggler.

Al-Khamis said that the confiscated cigarettes would be sold in a public auction as per the law.



المملكة اليوم

السجائر أصبحت تجارة رائجة
للمهربين على الجسر (تصوير:

هاني الخميس)

«السجائر» ومشروبات الطاقة تجارة جديدة للمهربين
عبر جسر الملك فهد

سيف الحارثي - الخبر | 03:00
الأربعاء 30 / 08 / 2017

إحباط تهريب سجائر
أجنبية داخل مخزن
سري في سيارة
بسياء

الأحد 05/أغسطس/2018 - 04:33 ص



EM countries in international routes

Origin	Transit	Destination
	Egypt	Iran
UAE	Tunisia	Iraq
	Libya	Pakistan
	Syria	

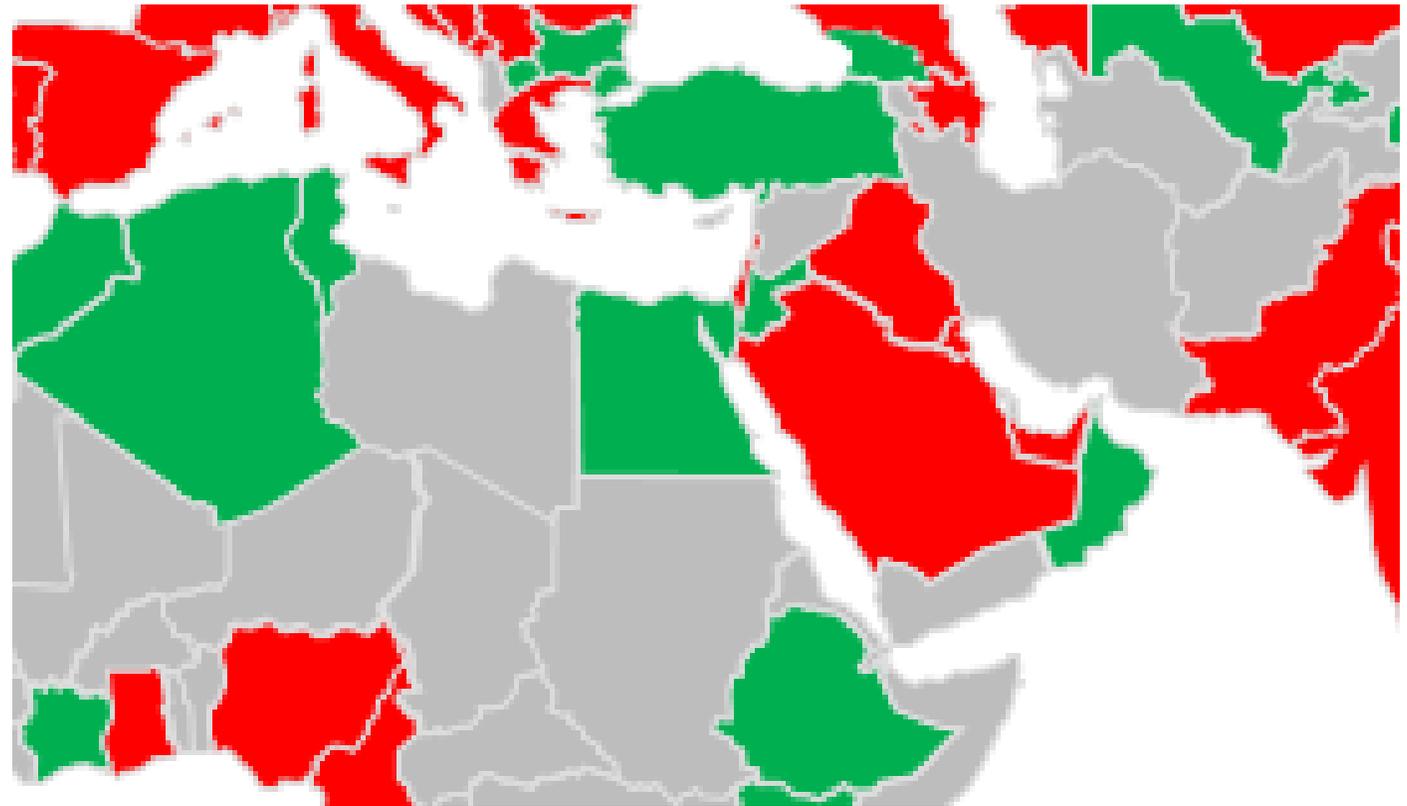
Free trade zones have also been used in the illicit tobacco trade in the UAE, and Egypt

<http://www.who.int/fctc/protocol/faq/en/index1.html>



Difference in illicit trade penetration 2011-2016

- Declined
- Increased



<https://www.euromonitor.com/illicit-trade-in-tobacco-products/report>



Alarming numbers in EM countries

In 2016	Iraq	Egypt
Illicit cigarette volumes	8.3 billion sticks.	6.7 billion sticks.

In 2016	UAE	Pakistan
Illicit trade market share	25%	More than 30%
Centres of illicit trade	Free zones, especially the Jebel Ali	

<https://www.euromonitor.com/illicit-trade-in-tobacco-products/report>



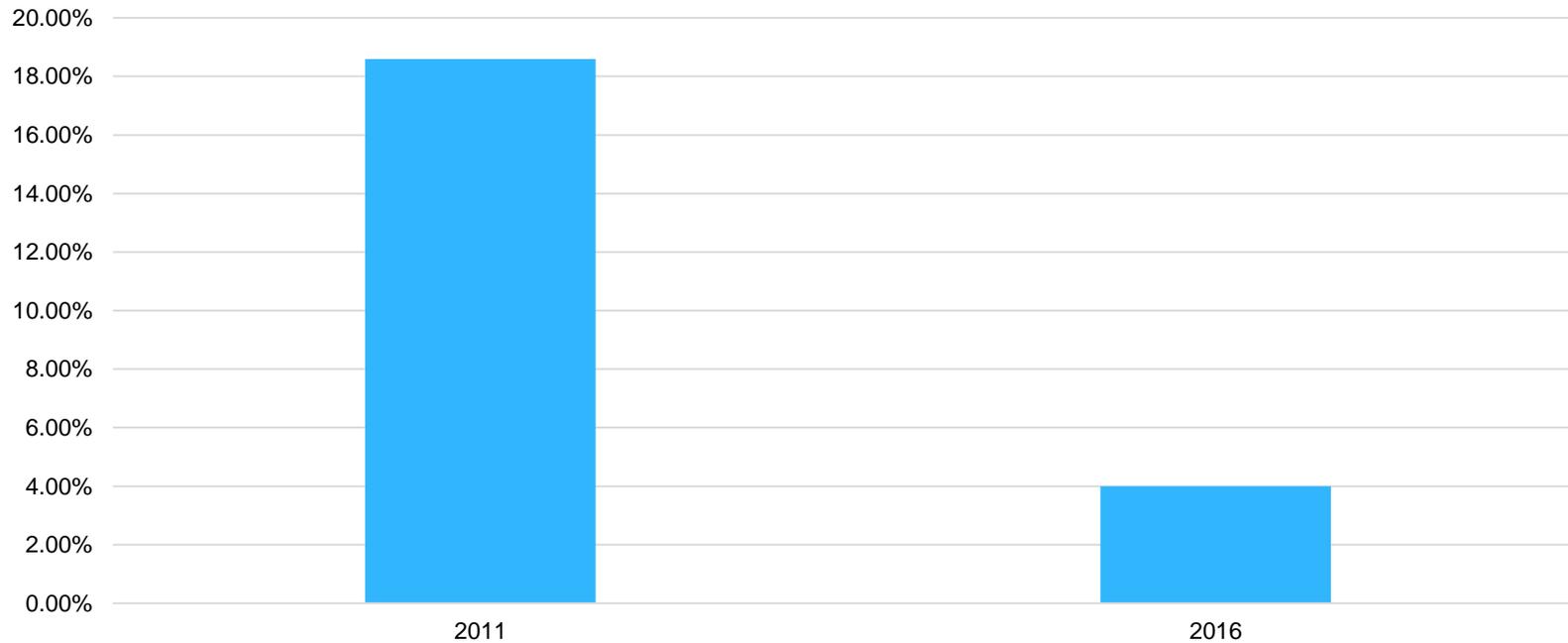
Intraregional smuggling

- Tax exempted governorates
- Regional trade hubs



Success story

Tunisia: 78% reduction in illicit trade market share



- Stricter border controls
- Prosecutors issuing search warrants for illicit facilities

<https://www.euromonitor.com/illicit-trade-in-tobacco-products/report>



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We only see the tip of the iceberg



Smuggled tobacco is publicly accepted



Is the industry involved?!



Why is its price in our countries less than in the country of origin?



Top 10 Most Expensive Cigarette Brands in the World 2018

POSTED IN VICES BY QUINN



Cigarettes are no longer cheap today. In many countries, smoking is now considered an expensive vice, thanks to governments implementing harsher excise taxes on cigarettes. To give you



Is the industry involved?!



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The industry is not our partner

مذكرة تفاهم بين الجمارك وفيليب موريس للتدريب على مكافحة عمليات ...

▼ /مذكرة-تفاهم-بين-الجمارك-وفيليب-موريس-ل-.../ www.alborsanews.com/

21 آذار (مارس) 2013 ... شدد رئيس مصلحة الجمارك ممثلاً عن وزارة المالية محمد الصلحاي على أهمية مكافحة عمليات تهريب السجائر غير المشروعة للأسواق المصرية.

البلاد: مذكرة تفاهم للتدريب على مكافحة تهريب السجائر

▼ www.el-balad.com/424632

وقعت اليوم شركة فيليب موريس - مصر مذكرة تفاهم مع مصلحة الجمارك بهدف مكافحة الإتجار غير المشروع في منتجات التبغ ، من خلال تدريب الكوادر التابعة لمصلحة الجمارك ...

مذكرة تفاهم لمكافحة عمليات تهريب السجائر... - سياسة وموعات - الخبر ...

<https://www.facebook.com/.../posts/625133574167512>

مذكرة تفاهم لمكافحة عمليات تهريب السجائر للسوق المصري التفاصيل ...



New products, new challenges

E-Cig

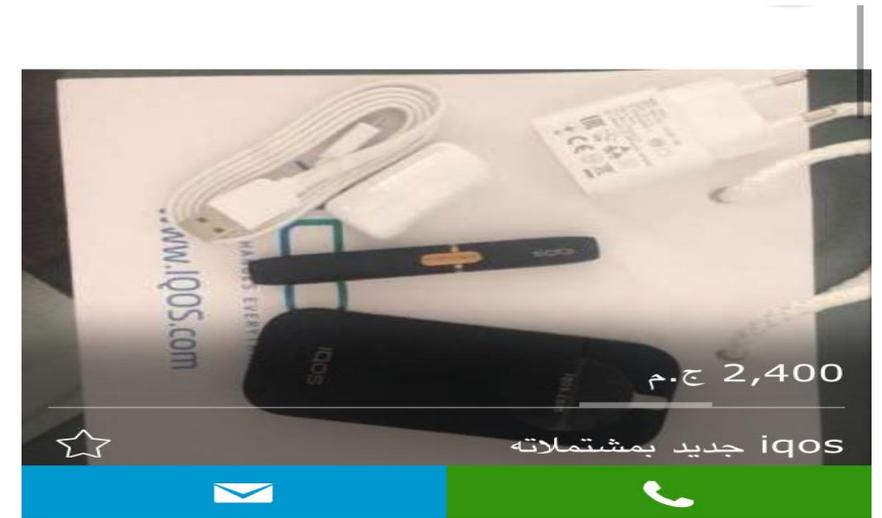
Banned in some EM countries but it is still there



New products, new challenges

HTP

- No specific regulations
- Industry is trying to lunch it in EM



The gap in research

- **Key players:** Industry, Terrorists, Smugglers, Governments????
- **Magnitude and characteristics of the illicit tobacco trade**
- **Economics of illicit trade**
- **Smuggling routes**



The protocol in EM

IRA IRQ PAK QAT SAA



EMRO position

المجلد الحادي والعشرون
العدد السادس

المجلة الصحية لشرق المتوسط

Editorial

Closing the door on illicit tobacco trade, opens the way to better tobacco control

Vinayak Prasad,¹ Ulrike Schwerdtfeger,² Fatimah El-Awa,³ Douglas Bettcher⁴ and Vera da Costa e Silva⁵

This year we are celebrating with the world the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). Parties to the WHO FCTC have come

Literature on the subject shows beyond doubt that the industry has been using various routes in the Region to smuggle its products into, out of and within the Region (3).

The impact of illicit tobacco trade

considerable increase from 42 seizures in 2012 (5). A recent report in the news also suggests that chewing tobacco products are part of the illicit tobacco trade activities in the Region (6).

The use of tobacco is escalating in



The way forward

- 1. Join the protocol**
- 2. Raise awareness**
- 3. Dismiss the myth related to illicit tobacco trade**
- 4. Inter-country cooperation to end illicit trade in the region**
- 5. Observe 5.3 when dealing with the industry**
- 6. Promote research**



THANK YOU

