

IRCP Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy
Ghent University

Prof. Dr. T. Vander Beken – Proofing products against organised crime - Brussels, 26 September 2003

Proofing products against organised crime

-

a case study of diamonds

Prof. Dr. Tom Vander Beken

EU Forum for the prevention of organised crime
Designing Crime out of Products and Services –
an EU wide approach
European Commission, Brussels, 26 September 2003

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Overview

- > **1. Product proofing against what?**
- > **2. Organised crime and vulnerability studies**
- > **3. Product proofing and vulnerability studies**
- > **4. Not only proofing against theft**
- > **5. Possible indicators**
- > **6. Example: the product “diamonds”**
- > **7. Conclusions**

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1. Product proofing against what?

- > **Product proofing:**
 - > *No EU-definition (“so-called product proofing”) (draft report on implementation millenniumstrategy, 2003)*
 - > *“Method to scan the probability that a crime occurs due to the nature of the product” (own tentative definition)*

- > **Proofing against crime or organised crime?**
 - > *Crime: theft, counterfeiting, ...*
 - > *Organised crime: A way of committing all kinds of crime,...*

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2. Organised crime and vulnerability studies

- > **(Organised) crime as player in the economy**

- > **Understanding and tackling organised crime:**
 - > **through its environment and opportunities**
 - > **importance of studying(legal) market situations**

- > **Market analyses:**
 - > **involvement oc in illicit sectors (drugs, ...)**
 - > **vulnerability of licit sectors (transport,...)**

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3. Product proofing and oc-vulnerability studies

- > **Vulnerability studies about sectors point out where the sector *might* be vulnerable for organised crime (risk)**
- > **Vulnerability of the product *by its nature* is one of the elements of a vulnerability study (next to entrance barriers (including *crime proofing*), viability of the actors, black market situation, ...)**

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4. Not only proofing against theft

- > **Existing methodologies for product proofing focus on (situational) prevention against theft**
 - > E.g. Secured by design
- > **Organised crime product proofing could be broader and focus on opportunities for:**
 - > theft of the product
 - > use of the product (instrument, commodity, payment, investment, ...)
 - > misuse of the product (money laundering, ...)

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5. Possible indicators

- > **Stability**
- > **Mobility**
- > **Compatibiliy/flexibility**
- > **Product differentiation**
- > **Elasticity**
- > **Integrity**
- > ...

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6. Example: the product “diamonds”

- > **High vulnerability:**
 - > **Diamonds are forever (stability)**
 - > **Small, easy to transport (mobility)**
 - > **Commodity, payment and investment (compatibility/flexibility)**
 - > **“white” product, nearly impossible to be identified or traced at any time (product differentiation)**
 - > **Price stability (elasticity)**
- > **Low vulnerability:**
 - > **Impossible to counterfeit (integrity)**

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7. Conclusions

- > **Product proofing has become an issue in the prevention of organised crime**
- > **We might need a special methodological framework for product proofing against organised crime**
- > **Proposal to:**
 - > **Integrate product proofing into vulnerability studies**
 - > **Open up the scope of proofing to the (mis)use of the product**