

# Operation against Illicit Trade in Refrigerant Gases



**euclid**

European Law Forum: Prevention • Investigation • Prosecution

**Thomas Wahl**

**News**

Within the framework of a joint investigation week that took place between 20 and 25 September 2021, law enforcement authorities in 16 countries [cracked down on the illegal import of refrigerant gases](#) (HFCs – hydro-fluorocarbons). The operations were coordinated by Dutch authorities, OLAF and Europol. In total, 2100 cylinders of F-gases were seized and seven suspects arrested. The estimated value of the illicit trade is over €10 million. Other administrative and criminal infringements were notified. The fight against illicit HFCs is one of the priorities of OLAF's work. Often, traders try to circumvent the strict EU rules on HFCs which is commonly used for cooling units. The EU set the goal to reduce consumption and production of HFCs by 79% by 2030 (compared to levels in 2014). For other previous actions against the illicit trade in HFCs → [euclid news of 29 July 2021](#) and of [1 April 2020](#).

## **AUTHOR**

**Thomas Wahl**

Senior Researcher  
Max Planck Institute for the  
Study of Crime, Security and  
Law

---

ISSN: 1862-6947

<https://euclid.eu>

---



---

## About euclid

euclid is the leading journal which regularly informs about current developments in European criminal and “criministrative” law.

All news items are freely accessible at: <https://euclid.eu/news/>

Stay informed by emailing to [euclid-subscribe@csl.mpg.de](mailto:euclid-subscribe@csl.mpg.de) to receive alerts for new releases of issues.

The project is co-financed by the [Union Anti-Fraud Programme \(UAFP\)](#), managed by the [European Anti-Fraud Office \(OLAF\)](#).



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**