

# VAT Scammers Caught



**euclid**

European Law Forum: Prevention • Investigation • Prosecution

**Cornelia Riehle**

## News

An action day against massive VAT fraud in mid-May 2021 resulted in the arrest of 22 suspects. The scam involved using a series of so-called front companies in different EU Member States, with suspects pretending to trade goods that, in reality, actually remained in Spain. By pretending to engage in EU trade, national VAT payment was avoided, defrauding Spanish tax authorities of €26 million in lost revenue. The operation was led by Spanish authorities and supported by authorities from the Slovak Republic, Belgium, and the Netherlands as well as by Europol and Eurojust.

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ISSN: 1862-6947

<https://euclid.eu>

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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**