



Valsts ieņēmumu dienests

Talejas iela 1, Rīga, LV-1978, telephone: +371 67122668, +371 67122670, e-mail: komunikacija@vid.gov.lv, www.vid.gov.lv

INFORMATION FOR THE MASS MEDIA

Rīga, 2 March 2017

SRS requests initiation of criminal prosecution for unlawful activities with four tons of tobacco

On 23 February of this year, the Customs Police Department of the State Revenue Service (hereinafter - the SRS) transferred the criminal proceedings for unlawful storage and transportation of four tons of tobacco products within the territory of Latvia to the Jekabpils District Public Prosecutor's Office for initiation of prosecution. Five persons were recognised as suspects. The SRS assessed it would be possible to manufacture more than 5.6 million cigarettes from the seized tobacco.

The criminal proceedings were initiated in April 2015 on the grounds of a case detected by the State Border Guard where five Latvian residents were apprehended in Zasa Parish of Jekabpils Region who were involved in activities related to illegal manufacturing of cigarettes. A large quantity of granulated tobacco, a truck, and a granulating machine were seized.

On the site, the officials of the State Border Guard found the tobacco granulating machine and a "Mercedes Benz" truck partly loaded with tobacco. In both the truck and the site, the officials of the State Border Guard seized in total 3955 kilograms of granulated tobacco.

The criminal proceedings were initiated on the basis of the constituent elements of a criminal offence provided for in Section 191, Paragraph 3 and Section 221, Paragraph 3 of the [Criminal Law](#), i.e. unlawful storage, movement (transportation) of tobacco products, were committed on a large scale, and transportation of goods subject to customs clearance in the customs territory of the Republic of Latvia without the permission of the customs authorities, were committed on a large scale.

Five residents of the Republic of Latvia were recognised as suspects within the criminal proceedings. Out of them, four persons (two males born in 1974, one male born in 1970, and one male born in 1965) were recognised as suspects in committing the offences provided for in Section 191, Paragraph 3 and Section 221, Paragraph 3 of the Criminal Law, and one more person (male, born in 1965) was recognised as a suspect in committing the offence provided for in Section 191, Paragraph 3 of the Criminal Law.

The tobacco seized within the criminal proceedings was destroyed, the truck was sold, but the action to be taken with regard to the cigarette granulating machine will be decided by the Public Prosecutor's Office.

The information has been prepared by:

SRS Public Relations Department

Tel. +371 67122668, +371 67122670, +371 26351438, +371 26558389

E-mail: komunikacija@vid.gov.lv

