

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2003

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The total amount of smuggled cigarettes intercepted by CCS this year (2003) is 28 million units (1 million 400 thousand packs), and their market value may total to over 2 million Litas. This is almost 10 times more than the amount of cigarettes intercepted during the same period last year intended for the Lithuanian market.

The joint operation of the Birzai district prosecution office, the Panevezys regional office of the Customs Criminal Service and the STT detected 5 Panevezys customs officials and 4 border guards omitted their duties for private gain by not inspecting vehicles and in this way facilitating the smuggling of cigarettes to the value of LTL 750,000 (appr. € 218,000).

In co-operation with the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau, STT agents found that members of the commission responsible for the destruction of confiscated cigarettes, assisted by police officials, had corruptly failed to perform their duties (i.e. destroy the cigarettes) and had taken bribes exceeding LTL 300,000 (appr. EUR 87,000) from organised crime groups, and had also counterfeited documents.