



A joint operation between the National Police, the Tax Agency and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria

Twenty-two arrests as two illicit tobacco factories manufacturing 13 different brands of cigarettes are dismantled

13th May 2019.-

- The detainees transported tobacco in bulk from Bulgaria and, once in Spain, they were transformed into cigarettes in the different factories they had in Catalonia with the necessary machinery to carry out the first stage - mixing the tobacco according to the brand -and second step- transforming the mixed loose tobacco into packets of cigarettes and, finally, in cigarette cartons.
- The cigarettes were distributed in various European Union countries - mainly Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain and the economic benefits were laundered through a business network
- The leader of the organisation, who had a network of companies ranging from housing construction to the transport of all type of goods and the purchase of companies abroad, had more than 200 workers dedicated to housing construction
- During their active period, the workers lived inside the warehouses with the doors closed, without windows and were so isolated that they did not even know which country they were in

https://www.agenciatributaria.es/AEAT.internet/en_gb/Inicio/La_Agencia_Tributaria/Sala_de_prensa/Notas_de_prensa/2019/Detenidas_22_personas_y_desmantelados_dos_centros_de_fabricacion_ilegal_de_cajetillas_de_trece_marcas_diferentes_de_tabaco.shtml