Dear Colleagues,

I participated in a meeting with EFPIA, TAXUD, GROW and TRADE today. The background from before the meeting is outlined below. The EFPIA companies had requested the meeting because they would like more information about customs seizures of counterfeit medicines that infringe their trademarks. Apparently, many MS customs authorities do not use Regulation 608/2013 on IPR to seize counterfeit medicines but rather infringements of the medicines legislation. Under medicines legislation, there is no obligation to inform the rights holder. The EFPIA companies have requested this information from medicines authorities but they refuse for data protection reasons. They also raised concerns that customs does not dedicate enough staff to medicines in comparison with for example tobacco.

TAXUD explained that they will discuss IPR with MS at high level soon. They will also put counterfeit medicines on the agenda of their ‘PARCS’ meeting where they discuss the implementation of sectorial legislation by customs authorities. I said that we would ask MS in our EG how the medicines authorities report information on seizures to relevant companies. [It would also be good to understand how the medicines authorities cooperate with customs.]

Many thanks,