No Cash, Less Crime?

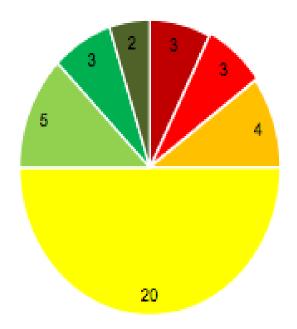
Nikos Passas Northeastern University

ESTA Annual Conference Budapest, May 2018

CPL argument

 cash payment limitations can be effective measures in the control of serious crime, such as terrorism finance, organized crime and tax evasion

Number of attacks by estimated cost



- Disrupted before any costs incurred
- ■< 100 USD
 </p>
- .100-1,000 USD
- 1,000-10,000 USD
- ■10,000-20,000 USD
- > 20,000 USD
- Not possible to estimate

"in 73% of the plots in Europe in 2014-16, the terrorists generated at least part of their income from legal sources such as salaries, welfare benefits, sale of property and loans"

"contrary to widespread notions of a crimeterrorism-nexus, criminal activities are not a very common source of funding for attack plots in Europe of late"

"there is little evidence of an increasing integration between criminal networks and terrorists in the area of attack financing".

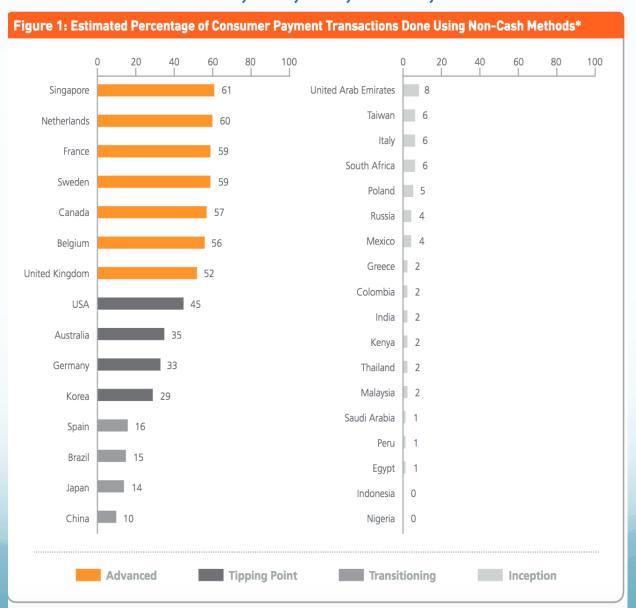
Sources: FFI (Norwegian Defence Research Establishment), Deutsche Bank Research

Anonymity w/out Cash

- Fake IDs cells behind Paris, Brussels, London attacks.
- Smuggling, trade diversion, mis-invoicing and barter deals are also possible (services, goods provided freely or under threat; commodities, such as drugs, tobacco, alcohol or diamonds). The use of third parties, voluntary or forced, to allow payments through their accounts on behalf of terror and organized crime groups.
- CPL would displace the problem, shift financial patterns, and provide incentives for offenders to become more sophisticated and better organized

- Some terrorists may use illegal trade, counterfeit or smuggled goods (relatively low risk of detection and prosecution, high margins).
- Drugs were exchanged for bomb-making material in the case of Madrid. Colombian traffickers have done this with innocent migrants in the USA; it is possibly used by numerous Chinese and other migrants by Chinese and Mexican criminal groups
- Such cash-based transactions can be better controlled by other means (e.g. at customs) than by CPL.

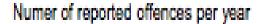
High terror risks/incidents in EU countries with CPL: F, S, B, UK, NL

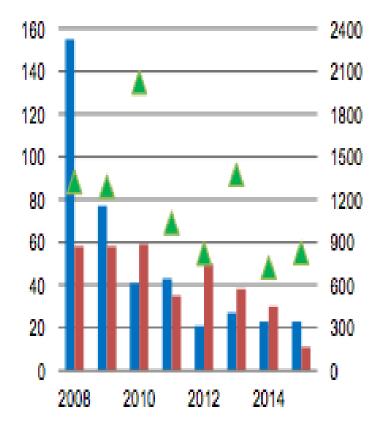


ML

- Use of dirty money for illicit activities is not money laundering, but a transfer or exchange of value within a criminal context.
- Criminals/extremists do not ask for receipts, so cash transactions between them can be of any size regardless of AML and CPL measures

Sweden: Less cash – less cash crime

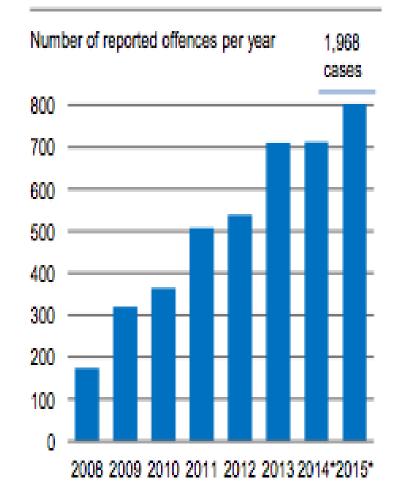




- Bank robbery (left)
- Security van robbery (left)
- ▲Counterfeiting of currency (right)

Sources: Brå/Swedish Ministry of Justice, Deutsche Bank Research

Sweden: Less cash – more money laundering?



*In mid-2014, the legal provisions regarding money laundering were changed.

Sources: Brå/Swedish Ministry of Justice, Deutsche Bank Research

No-Cash Crime

- Extraordinary and systemically consequential damage is caused by methods that involve no cash at all:
- unlawful risk taking,
- frauds,
- money laundering,
- sanctions violations,
- LIBOR interest fixing,
- corruption

- Implicated are some of the biggest financial institutions in the world, such as Deutsche Bank, HSBC, BNP Paribas, Lloyds, JP Morgan Chase and many others.
- None of these serious crime risks would be controlled or eliminated under CPL.
- Ironically, the culprits were institutions to which citizens would have to turn their cash under CPL.

Illegal business to consumers (B2C)

- Use of other payment methods
- Parallel "currencies" such as casino "black chips" in Macau and Hong Kong have become alternative currencies for consumers to buy illegal services
- Prepaid cards
- Crypto-currencies

ML with/out cash

- The Laundromat case alone involved close to \$21 billion, 5140 companies, 732 banks and 96 countries.
- If cash is not an option, launderers may turn to heavier use of shell companies, the dark net, crypto-currencies, tradeand service-based money laundering or other channels.
- If cash is to be used, it may be taken to jurisdictions where scrutiny is avoided.
- As with terrorist finance, CPL would drive serious crime and ML to other methods, channels and locations harder to monitor

Countries with CPL have high/er rates of shadow economies

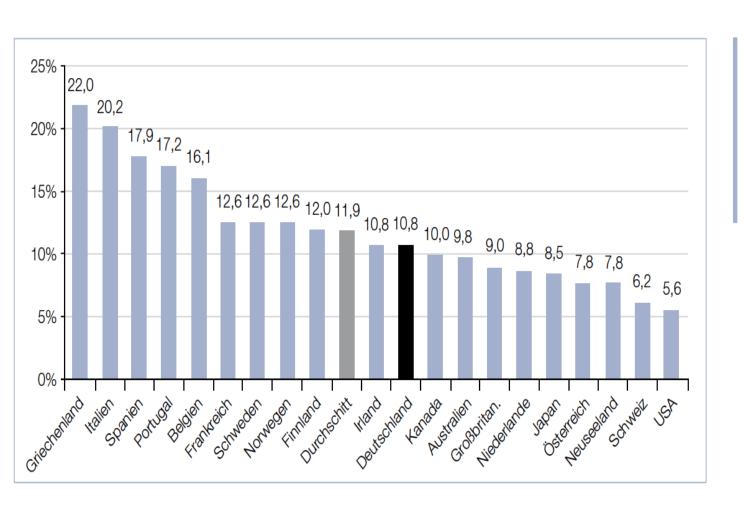
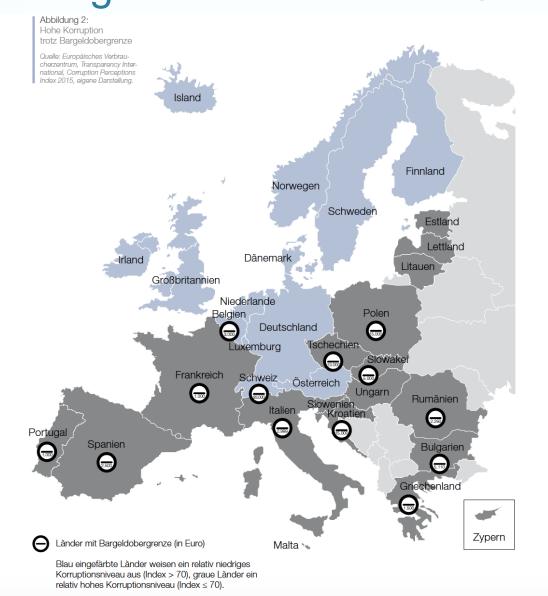


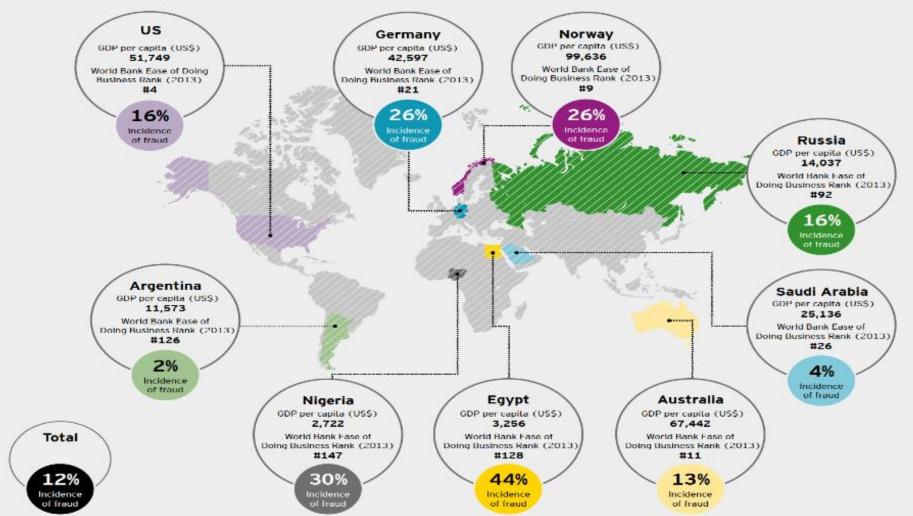
Abbildung 1:
Ausmaß der Schattenwirtschaft in den
OECD-Ländern
(im Verhältnis zum BIP)

Quelle: Schneider/Boockmann (2016), S. 23.

Corruption is high and is perceived to be high in countries with CPL



E&Y 13th Global Fraud Survey



Q: Has your organization experienced a significant fraud in the last two years? Base: All respondents (2,719)

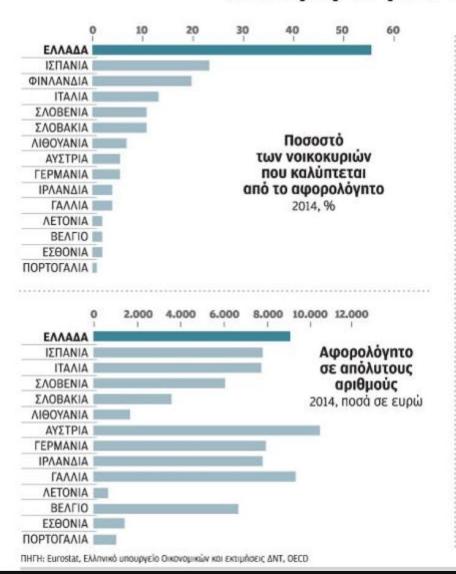
DPP per capita figures are 2012 GPP per capita (current US\$) from World Bank World Development Indicators, as updated on May 6, 2014

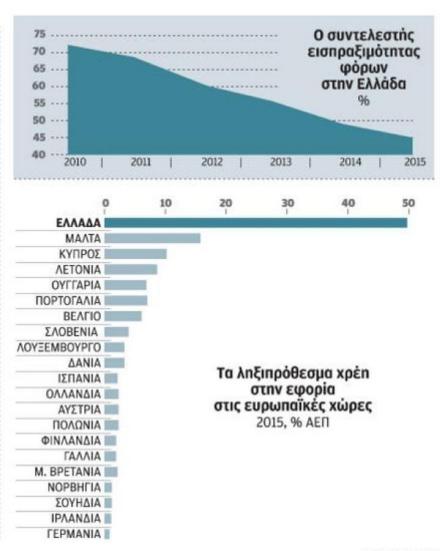
Wish to be like GR?

- Tax evasion is a difficult problem in many countries.
 But, mixing terrorism, serious crime with money laundering issues muddies and inflames the debate about CPL. Tax evasion is better dealt with by effective state services and responsiveness to citizens, regulatory reforms to reduce tax avoidance and related lawful, but awful practices
- Good governance, trust, legitimacy taking away the freedoms and rights that go hand in hand with cash, hurts these causes

EU-blessed policies = less revenue collected

Μπούμερανγκ η υπερφορολόγηση





Denominations, high hopes, low returns

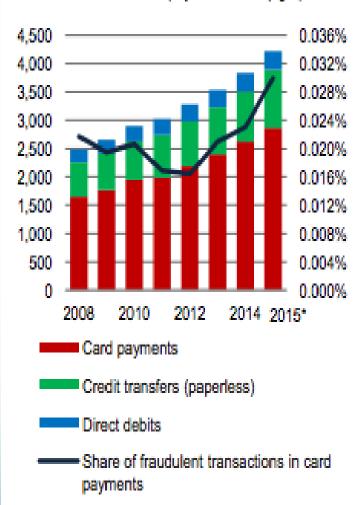
- Countries with high denomination_notes are low on crime and organized crime (e.g., Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, UAE), while crimes with very low denominations are high on crime (e.g., Brazil, Nigeria, S. Africa, Venezuela)
- Tax evasion and corruption do not go hand in hand with low denomination notes: Georgia has a \$200 denomination note, but enjoys low corruption and tax evasion rates. Malaysia and Uzbekistan have their highest notes in the equivalent of \$11 and \$1.57 but suffer much more corruption

In short

- CPL or cashlessness will not eliminate for-profit or ideologically motivated crime.
- Alternatives to illegal transactions and value will substitute cash.
- If this is more expensive, the cost will be passed on to consumers.
- As payments go digital, methods change and fraud goes up (see nearly cashless Sweden's rising card fraud rates)

Sweden: Electronic payments and card fraud

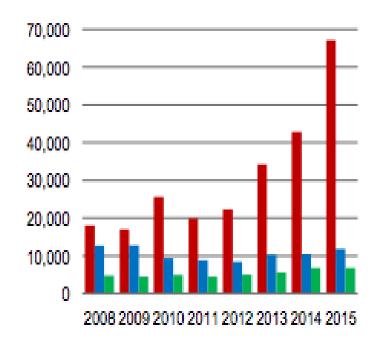
Number of transactions in millions (left); share of fraudulent card payments in % (right)



* Number of electronic payments estimated Sources: Sveriges Riksbank, Brá/Swedish Ministry of Justice, Deutsche Bank Research

Sweden: Online card fraud on the rise

Number of reported fraudulent transactions



- Fraudulent payments with stolen debit/credit card data
- Fraud with card payments at point of sale
- ATM fraud

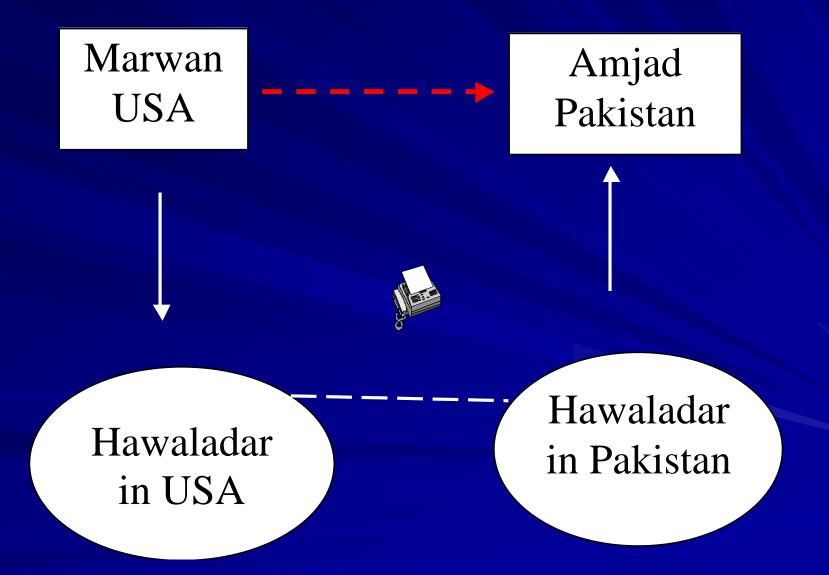
Sources: Brå/Swedish Ministry of Justice, Deutsche Bank Research

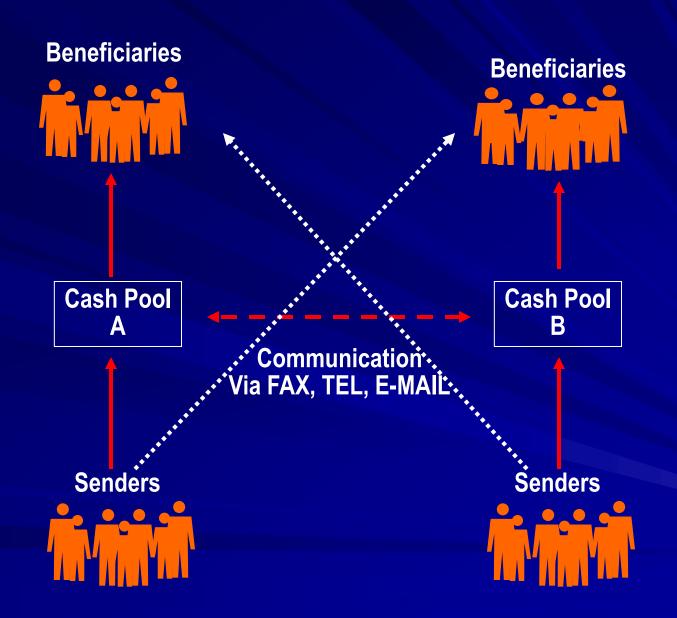
Law enforcement

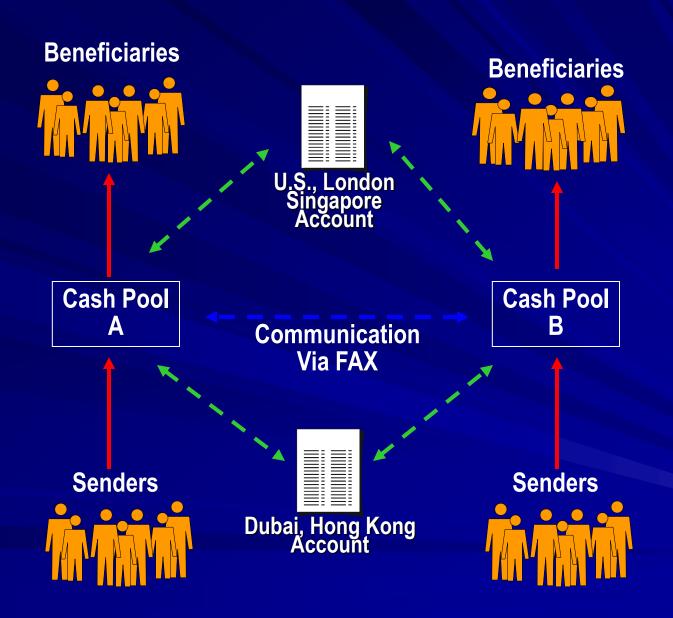
- Crime controllers need investigative trails.
- Transparency is about easy access to records, whereas traceability is the capacity to find answers to investigative questions.
- Big data and analysis must be combined with access by those who need to know, sharing of information and solid analysis.
- Terrorists from Boston to London, Paris, Brussels were on the authorities' radar screen, but the attacks were not prevented. Better use of data, timely and proper cooperation are more effective than more data that end up fragmented, wasted or abused

 Criminal trails are broken by cash transactions, but can also be broken by other means such as pre-paid cards, fake IDs, third parties, mis-invoicing or barter deals.
 CPL would simply displace crime and make determined offenders smarter

Basic Hawala







Account Settling





- Accounts are settled through:
 - reciprocal payments to customers
 - physical movement of money [courier/cargo]
 - wire transfer or check
 - legal and illegal TRADE

Under Invoicing





Value goes from London to South Asia

Under Invoicing







SA sends B \$150,000 and receives invoice

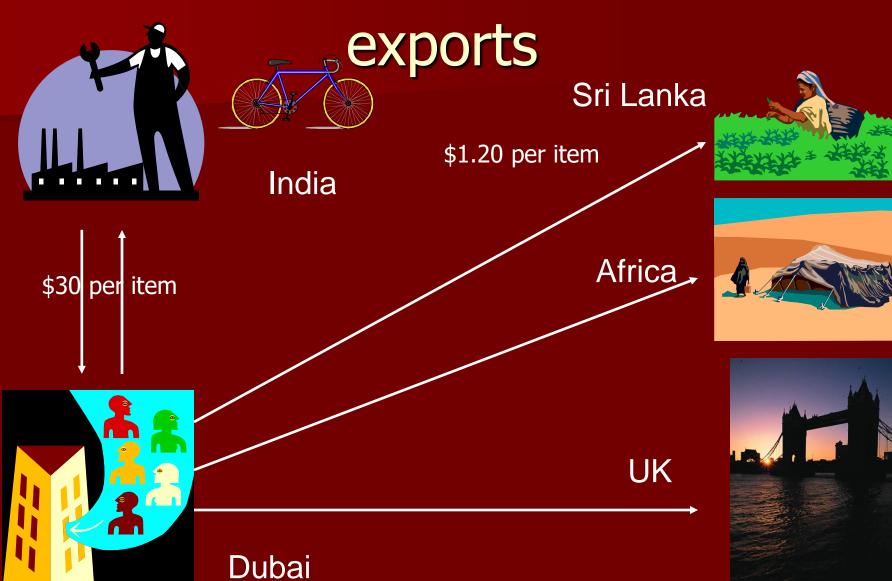
Under Invoicing







Hawala and over-invoiced





Export subsidies

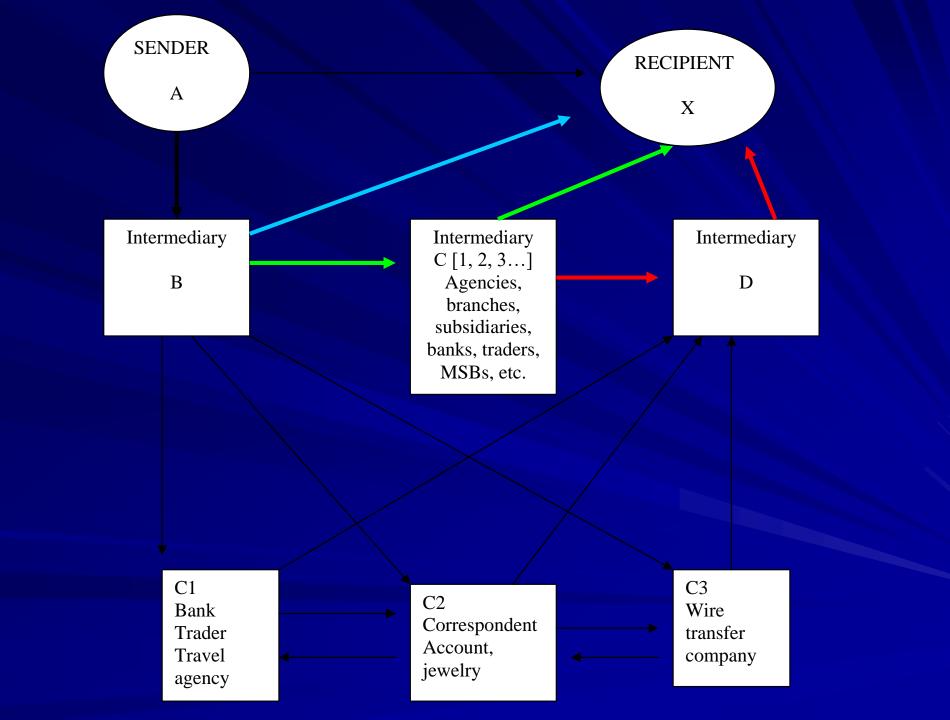












U.S. Manufacturer Order

Pro-forma invoice

up to 50% discount



Russian Company



U.S. Bank

Letter of credit



Swiss Bank

authorization



Government **Bank of Moscow**



Order

Pro-forma invoice

up to 50% discount

Agent



Russian Company

rubles



Notice of

U.S. Bank

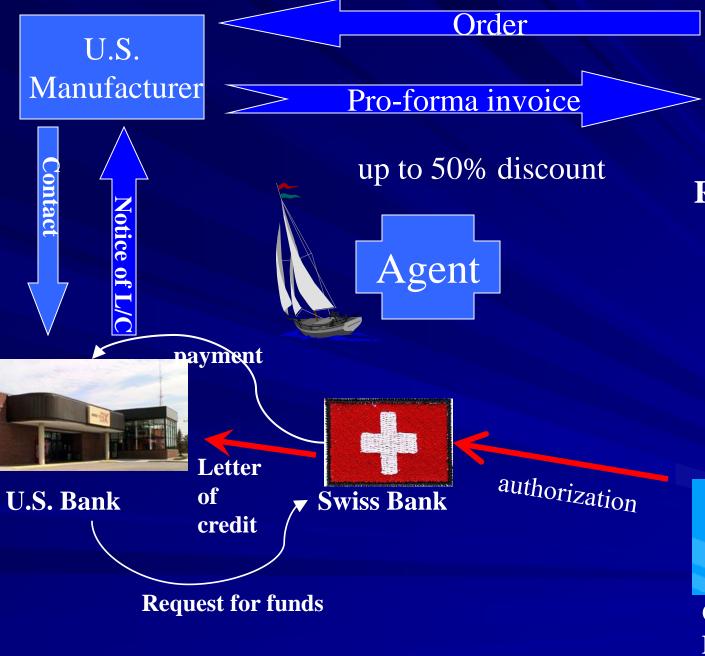




Bank authorization



Government Bank of Moscow





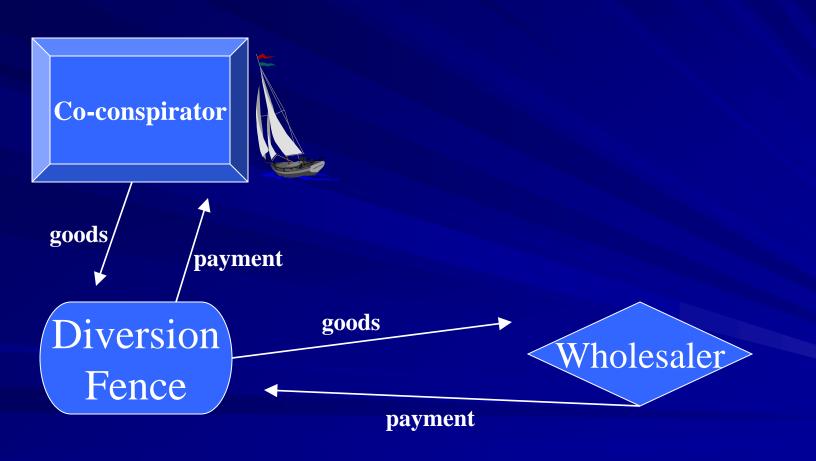
Russian Company

rubles



Government Bank of Moscow

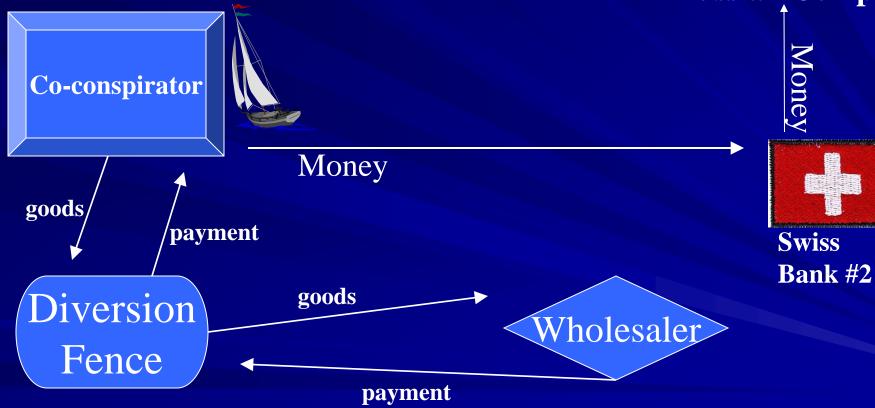




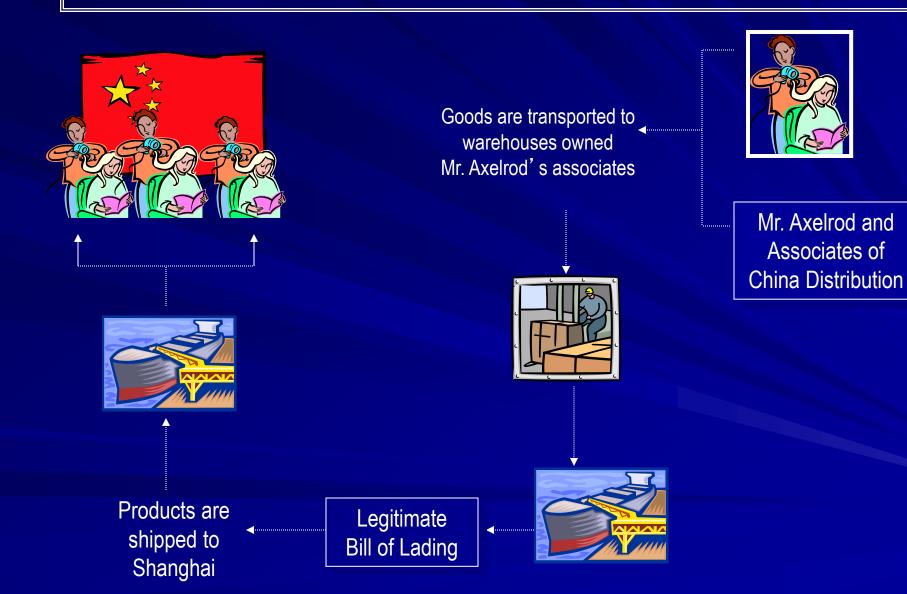




Russian Company



Paul Mitchell without Diversion



Paul Mitchell with Diversion

Mr. Axelrod and Associates of China Distribution



Products are
Transported to Axelrod
warehouses





Legitimate
Bill of Lading

Products are transported from Quality King warehouses to drug stores



Eckerds

Drug Emporium

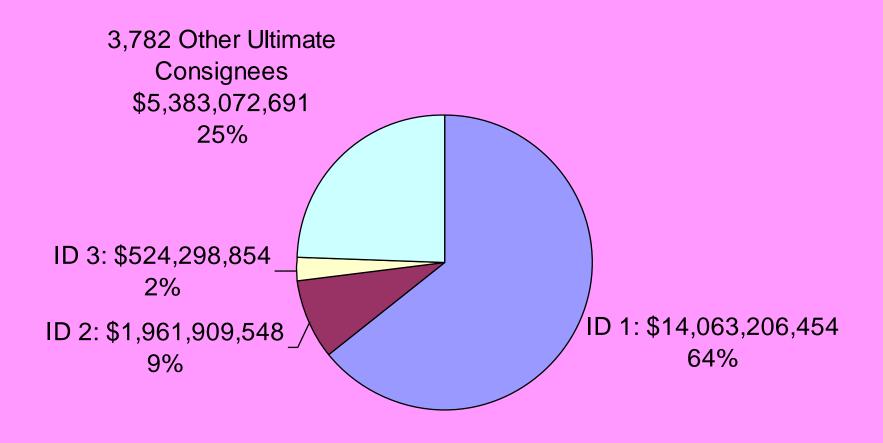
New York

Vigdor via Mevi International Sells products to Quality King

Products are sent to duty free port Shanghai

Products are re-routed to Rotterdam

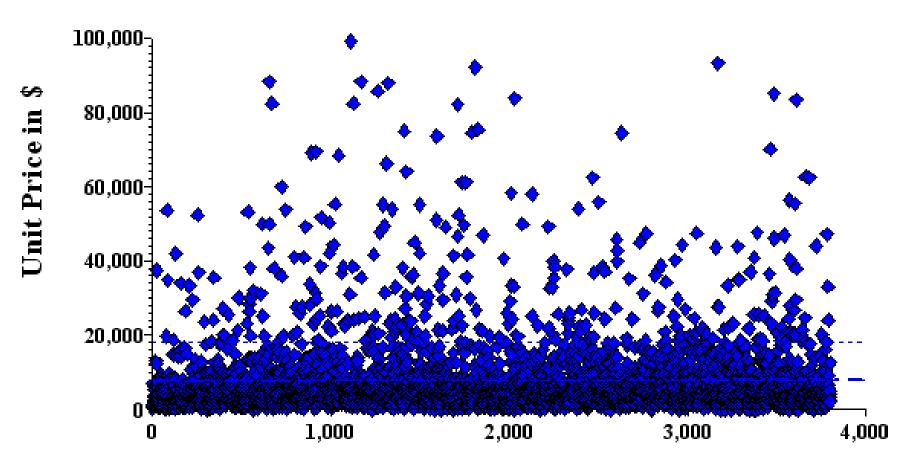
Top 1 Diamonds broker > .5 Carats \$21,932,487,547



DATE	CO. OF ORIGIN	CO. OF EXPORT	
20030709	GB	GB	Rough diamond
20030711	GB	GB	import declarations
20030715	GB	GB	
20030722	GB	GB	
20030725	GB	GB	
20030821	GB	GB	
20030822	GB	GB	
20030823	GB	GB	
20030827	GB	GB	
20030830	GB	GB	
20030910	GB	DE	
20030925	GB	GB	
20030929	GB	GB	
20031002	GB	GB	
20031007	GB	GB	

Polished diamonds





Entries in chronological order; 1/89 To Present

Non-cash broken trails

- Criminal trails can also be broken by other means such as prepaid cards, fake IDs, third parties, mis-invoicing or barter deals.
- CPL would displace crime and make determined offenders smarter. Techniques to fight smuggling and illicit trade, integrated analysis of data from various industries when there is a legitimate need to access and analyze them (e.g., telephone records, other communications, travel, CCTV, etc.) based on clear criteria and supervision can help far more with crime and security threats than CPL.
- Even if some marginal gains could be made by CPL, the heavy price they come with militates against their adoption

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- No gain
- A lot of pain and new risks:
 - Cost (India)
 - Legitimate industry
 - Right to privacy
 - Unbanked and financial exclusion of the vulnerable
 - Crises and emergencies harder to manage
 - Negative rates
 - Control by banks
 - New crimes
 - Incentives for more better organized crimes
 - Culture
 - Human rights, intrusion and potential abuse
 - Trust and legitimacy



All in all, demonetization accomplished too little while causing too much collateral damage.



Indians queue near an ATM counter at an

CPL argument is on thin ice

- both on internal logic (EU aims and principles) and externally (ineffectiveness of the measures and the collateral damage they will cause).
- Instead of considering policies with little or no effect on stated objectives, we need a demand-side approach to crime problems: a strategy based on an understanding of root causes and key drivers of terrorism, serious crime and tax evasion
- Supply side approaches have not worked in the past (cf. drug trade) and will be ineffective in the future. Need for
 - smart-policing leveraging new control options, available intelligence
 - better cooperation within and across countries
 - well thought-out financial controls

- CPL should not be imposed on MSs against the will of the people, whose interests the proposed policy would undermine rather than protect.
- Policy-makers must preserve the reliability and credibility of the financial system, promote rule of law and fairness in markets and society, shun rush judgments and illconsidered measures, and to consider thoroughly the potential adverse consequences of proposed policies.
- I hope this work assists in the exercise of this important task and responsibility

