

About the money laundering in the criminality against cultural heritage

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Given the globalization of criminality against cultural heritage, when the criminals that live in a country often meet in another country and organize the perpetration of deeds in a third country, while investing the proceeds of such deeds in a fourth country, European investigative structures must have at least the same mobility, communicate information to each other in real time, and must be capable to operatively find in other countries evidence admissible in the country where judgment is to be held. The appearance of e-trade provided an evolved *modus operandi* to the networks of traffickers that trade cultural goods whose provenience cannot be demonstrated through legal documents. Given that the internet sites provide them with the possibility to perform operations without giving any details to their customers with regard to the origin of goods, this type of rapid trades, with a very low degree of control by site administrators, grants to the involved persons an increased degree of security regarding the preservation of their anonymity.

Fast electronic trades offer the possibility to circulate a huge volume of archaeological pieces within such tenders and to obtain significant amounts of money, resulting from the sale of such goods.