# Europol-backed action disrupts 57 illegal IPTV services and traces crypto payments



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- Law enforcement from 11 countries disrupted 57 illegal IPTV services and identified 321 websites offering copyrighted content.
- The sites drew more than 7.3 million visits a year, according to Europol.
- Investigators traced over EUR 26 million in cryptocurrency transactions, with analysis continuing.
- Binance, Coinbase and Chainalysis supported the tracing of wallets and payment flows.
- Europol, EUIPO, INTERPOL and the AAPA trade body were involved in the operation.

Authorities from 11 countries have disrupted 57 illegal IPTV services, according to a Europol press release reported by BleepingComputer. These services sell unauthorised access to television channels, live sports and films, usually for a small monthly fee.

## What the operation found

Investigators identified 321 websites offering copyrighted content illegally, with combined annual traffic above 7.3 million visits. Europol described a criminal market worth billions of euros a year, where subscription payments are often collected in cryptocurrency. The AAPA trade association estimates that legitimate providers lose about €4.83 billion annually, with roughly 60 million people in Europe using illegal platforms.

## Following the money

Europol, EUIPO, INTERPOL and the AAPA worked with experts from Binance, Coinbase and Chainalysis. Together they looked for links between the IPTV services, crypto wallets, transactions and the people controlling them. Those wallets were used to receive and move payments across borders, which helps hide the origin of profits. More than EUR 26 million in transactions has been traced so far, and analysis continues.

The action follows other recent efforts, including Operation KRATOS 2 in June and Operation Switch Off in January.

## Relevance for Saudi institutions

The source does not mention the Kingdom. The case is nonetheless a useful reminder that unlicensed streaming is financed through crypto channels that can touch payment, onboarding and monitoring controls in regulated firms.

## What to do now

1. Check that transaction monitoring rules cover payments to and from crypto exchanges and unhosted wallets.
2. Review customer onboarding and ongoing due diligence for merchants and accounts tied to subscription-style crypto payments.
3. Make sure staff know how to escalate suspected piracy-linked or crypto-laundering activity to the compliance team.
4. Remind employees that unlicensed streaming apps on corporate devices breach acceptable-use policy and add security risk.