

## **MALTA STAR**

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### **Counterfeit medicine shipped from Malta caught in UK**

European-wide investigations on counterfeit meds

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**Law enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom have recently seized a shipment of drugs, shipped from Malta, which was found to contain a number of counterfeit medicines.**

This e-newspaper is reliably informed that Interpol has alerted the local police authorities about counterfeit drugs, and a thorough investigation was launched.

It is not yet known whether this counterfeit medicine find is related to another case of counterfeit drugs currently being investigated by a magisterial inquiry and revealed by **maltastar.com** on Monday.

At least one local person has been questioned by the police during the investigations.



A magisterial inquiry is also underway after the discovery of a fake medicinal product in the Maltese market. The investigations are at an advanced stage and the drug has been sent to foreign laboratories – UK, US and Germany – for further analysis.

#### **Product not in Maltese market**

Novartis Pharma Malta, a local medicine supplier, confirmed that a shipment of drugs, shipped from Malta on its way to the US was found to contain fake medicine.

But in relation to the alleged counterfeited drug, Co-Diovan, which used for high blood pressure, Novartis said that: “There is no evidence that the counterfeit product is or ever has been present on the market in Malta.”

“Counterfeit medicines pose a real and growing public health risk and Novartis is committed to take all necessary steps to combat this problem, in particular by helping governments to seek out and eliminate

counterfeit medicines, and identify and take appropriate action against all those engaged in the manufacture, distribution, storage, marketing and sale of counterfeit medicine,” said Novartis.

Meanwhile, international drug regulators are following closely the investigations of counterfeited medicine in Malta and their origins.

<http://www.maltastar.com/pages/msFullArt.asp?an=9551>