

## Continuation of the investigation into VAT extortion

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Further individuals detained by the CBA in connection with the investigation into VAT extortion in fuel trading.

The officers of the CBA Regional Office in Katowice, supported by the CBA officers of the Regional Office in Szczecin, have detained two entrepreneurs residing on the territory of the West Pomeranian Voivodship. The activities have been carried out as part of the investigation into the operation of an organised crime group extorting the VAT within trade in fuels. The investigation has been conducted by the CBA Regional Office in Katowice under the supervision of the Regional Prosecutor's Office in Lublin. The investigation examines the operation of a Czech company trading in liquid fuels, which in 2016 opened its branch in Poland. The company purchased liquid fuels from contractors in Lithuania and Germany, and then sold them to customers in Poland, but other than those specified in tax returns. The scheme was based on a number of economic operators issuing fictitious VAT invoices. The loss of the State Treasury due to the depletion of the VAT amounts to about PLN 10 million.

At the Regional Prosecutor's Office in Lublin, the detainees have been presented with charges of participation in criminal activities of an organised crime group, attestation of an untruth in documents, and evasion of VAT payment. The prosecutor applied non-custodial preventive measures against them.

This is the fourth procedural operation to this effect. Previously, in the course of the investigation, charges have been presented against 5 individuals. Two of them were remanded in custody.

Public Relations Division of the CBA



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