

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 7 September 2026

**Marché du Soleil in Marseille:
Unifab welcomes an unprecedented and exemplary court ruling against the
organised sale of counterfeits**

The Union des Fabricants (Unifab), an anti-counterfeiting association bringing together more than 200 companies from all sectors of activity, congratulates the Marseille criminal court, which on Monday 7 September handed down its long-awaited judgment in the “Marché du Soleil” case. This vast bazaar in the 2nd arrondissement has become, in recent years, one of the main hubs for the distribution of counterfeit goods in France.

Unifab welcomes this decision, which reflects the seriousness of the facts, notably by ordering the permanent closure of the site and thereby confirming the administrative measure taken by the prefecture as early as February 2026.

The Court also imposed a fine of more than €46 million and sentenced the owner of the premises to four years’ imprisonment, suspended. Fifteen people appeared in this case, which was opened following a record seizure of more than 200,000 counterfeit items, valued at €42 million, carried out last February by customs and law enforcement.

Unifab joined the public prosecutor, the Prefect of the Bouches-du-Rhône and local authorities in the public destruction of the seized goods, held in Marseille on 18 June, a few days before the start of the trial, to prevent these products, which comply with no standards, from returning to the market. Beyond the judicial response, the association, which followed the entire procedure alongside the rights-holding brands that were civil parties in the case, reminds consumers that their vigilance remains the best protection against counterfeiting, in physical markets and online alike. Developed with INPI as part of the France Anti-Contrefaçon scheme, the digital tool available at contrefacon.fr offers, sector by sector, practical guides and 3D models that allow everyone to learn how to spot the signs of a counterfeit product before buying.



[DIGITAL
TOOL HERE](#)

Unifab continues its work alongside public authorities and businesses to combat organised counterfeiting in all its forms.

“The Marché du Soleil had become a symbol of the normalisation of counterfeiting in public spaces. Its permanent closure must now serve as an example and encourage vigilance across all distribution channels, physical and online. The Saint-Ouen area should urgently draw inspiration from this approach so that the trafficking of fake products also ends in the Paris region.”

DELPHINE SARFATI-SOBREIRA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNIFAB