

Press Releases

Trio wanted by ICAC for alleged US\$900,000 bribery over toy orders of multinational retailer

2023-2-10

A Magistrate issued warrants for the arrest of two former buying managers of a multinational groceries retailer and the operator of a toy supplier, who are wanted by the ICAC for allegedly accepting and offering bribes totalling over US\$900,000 (over HK\$7 million) for causing the retailer to place toy orders worth totalling over US\$26 million (over HK\$205 million) with the toy supplier.

Zsolt Gergely Kovacs, 46 and Ladislav Gajdos, 43, respectively former senior buying manager and former buying manager of Tesco Stores Limited (Tesco Stores), jointly face one count of conspiracy for an agent to accept advantages, contrary to Section 9(1)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO) and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

Chen Jinqun, 57, operator of Handwin Toys Industrial Co., Limited (Handwin), faces three charges – one of conspiracy to offer advantages to an agent and two of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the POBO and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

The alleged offences took place between June 2010 and January 2020. At the material time, Kovacs and Gajdos were working in the buying team of Tesco Stores in the United Kingdom. Tesco Stores and Tesco International Sourcing Limited (Tesco Sourcing) in Hong Kong were both subsidiaries of multinational groceries retailer Tesco PLC. Kovacs and Gajdos were responsible for selecting toy and groceries suppliers for Tesco PLC based on the recommendations made by the sourcing team of Tesco Sourcing. Handwin was one of the toy suppliers.

It is alleged that in 2011, Kovacs suggested to Pang Chun-kin, then sourcing manager of Tesco Sourcing, to solicit rebates from Chen, who was the operator of Handwin. Gajdos was alleged to have participated in the corrupt dealings since around mid-2012.

The charge against Kovacs and Gajdos alleges that the duo conspired with Pang for the trio to, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, receive illegal rebates totalling over US\$708,000 (over HK\$5.5 million) from Chen for causing Tesco Sourcing to place orders with Handwin.

Meanwhile, Chen has allegedly conspired with Kovacs, Gajdos and Pang to offer the above illegal rebates to the trio, and Chen has allegedly offered two loans totalling US\$200,000 (about HK\$1.56 million) to Pang for the same purpose.

ICAC investigation revealed that Tesco Sourcing had placed toy orders worth totalling over US\$26 million (over HK\$205 million) with Handwin between March 2011 and January 2018.

Legal advice received from the Department of Justice earlier advises charging Kovacs, Gajdos and Chen. As the trio are not in Hong Kong, warrants for the arrest of them were issued by a Magistrate on Monday (February 6) upon the application made by the ICAC.

Pang was earlier charged by the ICAC with bribery. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at the District Court in July 2021 following his guilty plea.

Tesco PLC, Tesco Stores and Tesco Sourcing have rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

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新聞公佈

廉署通緝跨國零售商前採購經理及玩具供應商三人涉貪90萬美元

2023年2月10日

廉政公署獲裁判官簽發手令,通緝兩名跨國雜貨零售商前採購經理及一名玩具供應商東主。三人涉 嫌行賄受賄共逾90萬美元(逾700萬港元),使零售商向玩具供應商發出玩具訂單,總值逾2,600萬美元 (約2億500萬港元)。

Zsolt Gergely Kovacs · 46歳 · 及Ladislav Gajdos · 43歳 · 分別為Tesco Stores Limited (Tesco Stores)前高 級採購經理及前採購經理 · 同面對一項串謀使代理人接受利益罪名 · 違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(1)(a) 條及《刑事罪行條例》第159A條。

陳錦群·57歲·鑫源玩具實業有限公司(鑫源)東主·面對三項控罪·即一項串謀向代理人提供利益及 兩項向代理人提供利益·違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(2)(a)條及《刑事罪行條例》第159A條。

本案於2010年6月至2020年1月期間發生。案發時Kovacs及Gajdos在英國公司Tesco Stores採購部工作。Tesco Stores及香港公司Tesco International Sourcing Limited (Tesco Sourcing) 同為跨國雜貨零售商Tesco PLC的子公司。Kovacs及Gajdos負責根據Tesco Sourcing採購部的建議,為Tesco PLC揀選供應商。鑫源是其中一間玩具供應商。

Kovacs涉嫌於2011年建議Tesco Sourcing時任採購經理彭俊健向鑫源東主陳錦群索取回佣。Gajdos則 涉嫌約於2012年中開始參與有關貪污勾當。

控罪指Kovacs及Gajdos涉嫌與彭俊健一同串謀、使三人無合法權限或合理辯解、從陳錦群接受非法回佣逾70.8萬美元(逾550萬港元)、以致使Tesco Sourcing向鑫源發出玩具訂單。

陳錦群則涉嫌與Kovacs、Gajdos及彭俊健一同串謀,以相同目的向三人提供上述非法回佣,及另外向彭俊健提供兩筆共20萬美元(約156萬港元)的貸款。

廉署調查發現・Tesco Sourcing於2011年3月至2018年1月期間・向鑫源發出玩具訂單總值逾2,600萬美元(約2億500萬港元)。

廉署早前接獲律政司法律意見,向Kovacs、Gajdos及陳錦群作出檢控。因三人不在香港,廉署星期 一(2月6日)向裁判法院申請手令,通緝他們歸案,並獲裁判官簽發有關手令。

廉署早前已落案起訴彭俊健貪污,他承認控罪,於2021年7月在區域法院被判入獄三年。

Tesco PLC、Tesco Stores及Tesco Sourcing在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。 返回目錄