



WasteForce 8 Waste Crime Alerts

January 2018-November 2020

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Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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Table of contents

Waste Crime Alert 1 3

Waste Crime Alert 2 25

Waste Crime Alert 3 49

Waste Crime Alert 4 74

Waste Crime Alert 5 97

Waste Crime Alert 6 116

Waste Crime Alert 7 150

Waste Crime Alert 8 177



WasteForce Crime Alert #1

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Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 1

1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The Waste Force project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications and policy updates. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This first Waste Crime Alert summarises information that was published between January 2018 and February 2018. The waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Summary of Publications and Legislative updates published in 2018, see the overview in Annex I
3. Summary of Enforcement operations in 2018, see the overview in Annex II
4. Summary of News cases published in 2018, see the overview in Annex III

2. Summary of new publications ([Annex I](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of recent publications, highlighting important trafficking routes, hot spots, modus operandi and so on. A summary of each publication can also be found in Annex I.

The report “The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment” ([UN Environment](#), 2018) summarizes the main hotspots and routes of illicit waste trafficking of previous years: “For several years, the European Union, North America (the US), Japan, and Australia have been reported as the main exporters of illegal waste shipment, with the main destination countries being Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Benin and Senegal), and Asia (China, including Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam) (Rucevska et al. 2015; Nellemann et al., 2016). To a lesser extent, Eastern Europe is also mentioned as a destination region (Rucevska et al. 2015). Notably, the trafficking routes for illegal waste largely depend on the type of waste that must be disposed. For instance, electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) is usually shipped to African countries and South-east Asia; used-car part and end-of-life vehicle to Eastern Europe and Africa; plastic to Asia, especially China DOTCOM Waste Project, 201a.

The efforts made by China in recent years to better control illegal waste imports have impacted the traditional routes, with Vietnam and Northeast Asian countries becoming transit countries for movement of wastes, having China as the final destination.

The report “Holes in the Circular Economy: WEEE leakage from Europe” ([Basel Action Network](#), 2019) provides the result of the tracking of a two-year investigation that tracked shipments from ten European Countries. The Basel Action Network put GPS trackers on 314 units of electronic equipment in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom. Of the 314 tracked units of equipment deployed in the study, 19 (6%) were exported out of the countries from which they were deployed. The EU country exporting the most e-waste was the UK (all to developing countries) with 5 followed by Denmark and Ireland with 3 each. The UK, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Poland, and Spain all allowed such e-waste exports to developing countries which are likely to be illegal. The likely illegal exports of hazardous wastes from the EU flowed to the developing countries of Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Romania, Ukraine, Pakistan, Thailand and Hong Kong. Africa was by far the region of the world most targeted by EU e-waste exporters. The continent received 7 exported units (5 to Nigeria, 1 to Ghana, and 1 to Tanzania) of tracked equipment (64% of the shipments leaving the EU).



Guardian graphic. Source: Holes in the Circular Economy: WEEE Leakage from Europe
Source: The Guardian (2019)¹

The report “Environmental rule of Law, first Global report” ([UN Environment](#), 2019), discusses the range of measures that countries are adopting to address this implementation gap—and to ensure that rule of law is effective in the environmental sphere.

Finally, the report “Regulatory Developments in China July – December 2018” ([Compliance & Risks](#) 2018), reviews the key developments in legislation in China in the second half of 2018.

¹ <https://amp.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/07/uk-worst-offender-in-europe-for-electronic-waste-exports-report>

Documentary on E-waste (French): Le monde en face - Déchets électroniques, le grand détournement

France 5. Directors: Coraline Salvoch and Alain Pirot

In addition to the publications, a new documentary has been released on e-waste. Using GPS trackers hidden on waste, the documentary traces illicit e-waste from the EU to Africa. It also shows the role of the enforcement officers countering this illicit trade. The documentary can be found on YouTube through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4DtgB1G-M0>

3. Summary of Enforcement operations on waste crime ([Annex II](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of enforcement operations carried out in 2018. A full summary of the operations can be found in Annex II.

In 2018, EUROPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) carried out operations targeting the illegal trade in waste.² EUROPOL coordinated the EMPACT Joint Action Days. The Joint Actions Days involved 8 cross-border law enforcement operations targeting international crime, including environmental crime. EUROPOL also supported Operation ROTAMM, led by the Spanish Guardia Civil, which resulted in the dismantling of a criminal group illegally trading tyres. The operation involved 17 countries from the 3 continents. As a result of the investigations, 9 people were arrested. In addition, criminal charges were pressed against another 5 individuals under investigation and 17 houses were searched. World Customs Organisation coordinated Operation DEMETER IV, specifically targeting the illegal transboundary movements of waste. A total of 75 customs administrations participated in the joint global operations, in which a total of 214 seizures were reported, comprising 199 cases involving waste. In addition to the operations coordinated by Inter-Governmental Organizations, national enforcement also carried out operations on waste.³ The Italian enforcement authorities carried out operation 'Cannibal cars', targeting the illicit waste trade involving Italy, Egypt, Iran and Libya. In this operation 4 company owners were arrested. In China, customs officers investigated 481 criminal cases related to waste smuggling in 2018. Inspections were done at 1,155 enterprises with licenses to import plastic waste, and at 236 the customs administration found violations.

² A full description and references can be found in Annex II 'IGO Enforcement actions'.

³ A full description and reference can be found Annex III 'Cases reported in the news'.

4. Analysis of news cases ([Annex III](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements from January 2018 to February 2019. In total, 21 cases were found, of which an overview can also be found in Annex III.

Global map with news cases: follow this [Link](#)



Types of waste and routes

Most of the identified news articles involved plastic waste (6 cases) and e-waste (4 cases). Other types of waste reported were end-of-life vehicles (ELV's), batteries, toys, metal scrap, tyres, bunker oil, ships, household waste and 'hazardous waste' in general.

Table 1 presents an overview of the routes reported in the news cases, divided by the type of waste. Nine cases concern trafficking from the EU to Africa, 5 cases involve trafficking from the EU to Asia, 4 cases involved trafficking within Asia, 1 case was an illegal export from North America to Asia; and 2 cases were reported of waste trafficking within the EU. Important export ports reported are the Italian port of Genoa (case 2, case 4) and the Italian ports of Bari and Salerno (case 4). In case 20 the port Laem Chabang in Thailand is reported as the most important entry port of the country, where 90% of the waste is coming in.

Types of waste reported	Cases and routes
E-waste	Case 2 Italy > Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin
	Case 7 United Kingdom > Nigeria
	Case 20 not reported > Thailand
	Case 21 Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan > Thailand
Plastic	Case 6 United Kingdom > Hong Kong
	Case 11, the Netherlands > not reported
	Case 15, South Korea > Philippines
	Case 16 United States, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia > Malaysia
	Case 20 not reported > Thailand
	Case 21 Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan > Thailand
ELV's	Case 2 Italy > Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin
	Case 4 Italy > Egypt, Iran and Libya
Batteries	Case 2 Italy > Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin
	Case 9 France > not reported
	Case 15, South Korea > Philippines
Toys	Case 2 Italy > Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin
Metal scrap	Case 3 Italy > not reported
	Case 9, France > not reported
Hazardous waste	Case 4 Italy > were Iran, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Afghanistan, Togo, Somalia, Iraq, Nigeria and other African or Asian countries.
	Case 7 United Kingdom > Nigeria
	Case 8 France > not reported
Tyres	Case 5, from European member states to South America and Africa.
Household waste	Case 6 United Kingdom > Hong Kong
Bunker oil	Case 10, The Netherlands > Belgium
Ships	Case 12, the Netherlands > India
	Case 19 not reported > Pakistan, India and Bangladesh

Table 1: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Quantities and Values

Some of the cases reported the quantity of waste that was exported and the value of the waste. Both Thailand and Malaysia found an increase in illicit waste imports after the ban in China on certain wastes, particularly of plastic. According to the [JapanTimes](#), the Chinese ban on plastic waste imports disrupted the flow of more than 7 million tons of plastic scrap a year. In Thailand in 2017, a total of 145,000 tonnes of plastic waste were imported into Thailand, while in the first five months of 2018 already 212,000 tonnes of plastic waste were imported. In case 16 is reported that 456,000 tons of plastic waste was imported in Malaysia between January and July 2018, of which the United States exported 178,238 tons.

Authorities in Malaysia also found 30 illegal recycling plants, that processed the import of plastic waste from the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Germany, Ireland, Australia and the United States. These recycling plants were shut down by the Malaysian government.

The cases also reported a high quantity of ships being illegally shipped to Asia for shipbreaking. In case 19, is reported that in 2018, globally, 22.916 million tons of vessels were demolished. In Pakistan 3.5 million tons of vessels were demolished, in India 6.32 million tons and Bangladesh 6.26 million tons.

The highest values of the illicit waste that were trafficking were the estimation in case 5 of the 200,000 tyres with a value of nearly € 2 million and in case 4 the seizure of 3,500 tons of waste with an estimated value of € 1.7 million.

Modus operandi

Most cases reported the illicit export of waste without the modus operandi. Some cases reported there was a lack of a permit (e.g. case 10, 11). In case 15 there was a false declaration, waste was declared as something different (as plastic synthetic flakes, while the shipment contained plastics, used batteries, and diapers.) In case 7, a man was found guilty for illegitimately claims of money through government-backed Producer Compliance Schemes for collecting and recycling waste that in reality, the company had never handle, as well as for VAT fraud and exporting waste. Also in case 20 tax fraud and evasion were reported. In case 20 is reported that the companies used loopholes in the law to illegally export the waste. The customs is also not able to check all containers. For some cases of plastics waste import, the company was licensed for plastic import, but the stock was dirty or contaminated with chemical substances which cannot be recycled or reused.

Criminal organisations

In half of the cases the involvement of companies is reported (cases: 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20). In four of the cases a criminal organization was discovered by enforcement authorities. In case 3: the Italian Carabinieri, discovered a criminal network involved in the illicit trafficking of waste. The network was operated by representatives of recycling companies in cooperation with citizens of Roma origin. In case 5, the police in Spain disputed an organized criminal network and nine people were arrested of this Spanish-based 'gang'. In case 8 nine men were arrested in France from waste transport and storage front companies and finally, in case 9 two entrepreneurs were arrested and named as the 'head of the traffic' of illicit batteries.

Annex I: New Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Title	The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment
Organisation	UN Environment and UNICRI
Year	2018
Summary	The study by UN Environment, titled The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment, listed illegal dumping and trade of wastes among the five of the most prevalent environmental crime areas globally.
Link	https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25713/knowledge_crime_en/vlmpacts.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
Title	ENVIRONMENTAL RULE OF LAW. First Global Report.
Organisation	UN Environment
Year	2019
Summary	This Report discusses the range of measures that countries are adopting to address this implementation gap—and to ensure that rule of law is effective in the environmental sphere. The Report highlights the need to undertake a regular global assessment of the state of environmental rule of law. The Report also calls for a concerted effort to support countries in pilot testing approaches to strengthen environmental rule of law.
Link	https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27279/Environmental_rule_of_law.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
Title	Holes in the Circular Economy: WEEE Leakage from Europe
Organisation	Basel Action Network (BAN)
Summary	The global environmental watchdog organization Basel Action Network (BAN) today released the findings of a two-year study in 10 EU countries that followed 314 old computers, printers, and monitors in which GPS Trackers had been secretly installed. This equipment was then delivered to places where consumers are expected to take their waste -- most often government-approved takeback stations. They found that 19 (6%) of the tracked scrap equipment was exported, including 11 very likely illegal shipments to the countries of Ghana, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, Thailand, and Ukraine, outside of the EU.
Link	http://www.ban.org/news/2019/2/6/gps-trackers-discover-illegal-e-waste-exports-to-africa-and-asia , http://wiki.ban.org/images/f/f4/Holes_in_the_Circular_Economy_-_WEEE_Leakage_from_Europe.pdf https://amp.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/07/uk-worst-offender-in-europe-for-electronic-waste-exports-report
Title	Regulatory Developments in China July – December 2018
Organisation	Compliance & Risks
Summary	In the second half of 2018, the Chinese Government continued to be active in issuing legislation pursuant to two fundamental policy documents: “Made in China 2025” (published in 2015) and The “13th Five Year Plan” (published in 2016). This paper summarises the key developments that took place between July and December 2018 under the following 5 main headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restriction of Hazardous Chemicals ● Reform of Compulsory Product Certification System

- Product Energy Efficiency Regulations
- Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Product Safety

Link <https://www.complianceandrisk.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Regulatory-Developments-in-China-Compliance-Risks-White-Paper.pdf>

Legislative Updates

Title **COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the implementation of the circular economy package: options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation (Text with EEA relevance) options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation. COM/2018/032 final**

Organisation European Commission

Summary On the 9th of April 2018, the Commission published [technical guidance on the classification of waste \(2018/C 124/01\)](#), as announced in the Commission's January 2018 [Communication on options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation](#).

Link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0032>

Annex II IGO Enforcement actions

EUROPOL

Date 21 December 2018

Title **EMPACT joint actions days generate big results in 2018**

Summary In 2018 the Member States of the European Union joined forces with Europol and its institutional partners to fight organised crime groups active in the ten priority crime areas which fall under the European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats (EMPACT). The outcomes of the Joint Action Days exemplify the tremendous impact that they had on some of the EU's most threatening organised crime groups. Over the course of 2018, eight cross-border law enforcement operations targeted serious international and organised crime in the EMPACT priority crime areas, including on environmental crime.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/empact-joint-action-days-generate-big-results-in-2018>

Date 21 April 2018

ILLEGAL WASTE TRAFFICKING: HOW TO MAKE EUR 1.8 MILLION FROM 200 000 USED TYRES

The Spanish Guardia Civil, with the support of Europol and Ameripol, dismantled a criminal group illegally trading used tyres in several countries across Africa, America and Europe.



As part of Operation ROTAMM, the Guardia Civil dismantled a criminal group operating from Spain that acquired used tyres and sold them illegally in Africa, America and Europe. The operation involved 17 countries from the 3 continents. It is estimated that the criminal organisation could have obtained net profits amounting to nearly EUR 2 million. As a result of the investigations, nine people were arrested. In addition, criminal charges were pressed against another five individuals under investigation and 17 houses were searched. Investigators believe that this group could have been illegally moving more than 200 000 tyres over the last five years.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/illegal-waste-trafficking-how-to-make-eur-18-million-200-000-used-tyres>

INTERPOL

No cases reported on waste crime on the public news between Jan 2018 and Jan 2019

World Customs Organisation

Date 28 November 2018

Title **Illegal trade in waste: overview of Operation Demeter IV**

Summary Operation DEMETER IV targeted illegal transboundary movements of waste. A total of 75 Customs administrations participated in the joint global operation, the biggest Customs operation targeting illegal trafficking of waste to date, which yielded over 326,133 tonnes and 54,782 pieces of different types of waste. The most frequently seized commodities included mineral slag (283,671.925 tonnes), plastics (9,816.018 tonnes), e-waste (245.277 tonnes and 14,826 pieces), waste rubber (1,032.970 tonnes), municipal waste (518.420 tonnes), clothes (5,371.804 tonnes), paper (25.705 tonnes), batteries (62.226 tonnes), and metal scraps (8,212.226 tonnes). A total of 214 seizures were reported, comprising 199 cases involving waste. The largest seizure was a shipment of smelting slag (approximately 180,000 tonnes) from Spain, intercepted by China Customs.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/EN/MEDIA/NEWSROOM/2018/NOVEMBER/ILLEGAL-TRADE-IN-WASTE-OVERVIEW-OF-OPERATION-DEMETER-IV.ASPX>

Annex III Cases reported in the news

Africa

Case 1. Nigeria

Title	Nigeria named as global destination for illegal waste trafficking
Date	01-10-2018
Type of waste	N.A.
Quantity/ Value	N.A.
Routes	Main destination countries: Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Benin and Senegal as well as China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Vietnam.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal trade and dumping of waste
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	A new study has fingered Nigeria and 15 other countries in Africa and Asia as the main destination for Environmental crimes, especially illegal waste trafficking. The study by UN Environment, titled The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment, listed illegal dumping and trade of wastes among the five of the most prevalent environmental crime areas globally.
For more information, please visit:	https://guardian.ng/property/nigeria-named-as-global-destination-for-illegal-waste-trafficking/

Europe

Case 2. Italy

Title	Waste directed to Africa, stocked in the East of Rome
Date	28 January 2019 (date of confiscation, seized in October 2018)
Type of waste	E-waste, ELVs, batteries, toys, including hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	From Italy (from warehouses in Rome through the port of Genoa) To Nigeria, Cameroon and Benin
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export of hazardous waste
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Several tons of waste (e-waste, ELVs, batteries, toys etc.), including hazardous and polluting ones, were stocked in an area of 2000 squared meters, rented by a citizen of Nigerian origin and owned by an Italian citizen (not aware of the actual usage), and located in the eastern suburbs of Rome. They were then transported to the port of Genoa, and then to the African continent – in particular to Nigeria, Cameroon and Benin.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.romatoday.it/cronaca/discarica-lunghezza-rifiuti-africa.html>

Case 3. Italy

Title Illicit trafficking of waste, 15 people arrested in Rome. A business of more than 500 thousand Euro.

Date January 2019

Type of waste E-waste: refrigerators, washing machines, other ferrous materials

Quantity/Value N.A.

Routes N.A.

Type of crimes/ N.A.

Modus Operandi

Criminal organisation Involvement of a criminal network (15 people arrested)

Summary

The Italian Carabinieri – Forestal Police, coordinated by the District Antimafia office in Rome, discovered a criminal network involved in the illicit trafficking of waste. The investigation had started already in 2016, initially related to a number of toxic fires. These were the result of an illicit management of waste, operated by representatives of recycling companies in cooperation with citizens of Roma origin. The main type of waste involved was metal scrap.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.lastampa.it/2019/01/15/roma/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-arresti-a-roma-giro-daffari-per-oltre-mila-euro-GDKCHWmlUq1N0vFA1ayn0K/pagina.html>

Case 4. Italy

Title Operation ‘Cannibal Cars’

Date February 2019

Type of waste Hazardous and non-hazardous waste, including ELVs

Quantity/Value 3500 tons with a value of 1.7 million euro

Routes From: Italy – the port of Bari Genoa and Salerno

To: Egypt, Iran, Libya, Jordan, Afghanistan, Togo, Somalia, Iraq, Nigeria and other African or Asian countries.

Type of crimes/ Illegal shipments of hazardous waste

Modus Operandi

Criminal organisation Four companies involved

Summary

Operation ‘Cannibal cars’ relates to a suspected illicit transboundary movement of hazardous waste involving Italy, Egypt, Iran and Libya. 4 companies placed in the region Apulia – Italy have been arrested. About 3,500 tons of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, including ELVs, have been trafficked – for the total value of 1.7 million euro. According to the investigations, coordinated by the prosecutor Renato Nitti, the shipments started back in 2014 – from the ports of Bari, Genoa and Salerno. Main destinations were Iran, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Afghanistan, Togo, Somalia, Iraq, Nigeria and other African or Asian countries.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.lagazzettadelmezzogiorno.it/news/notizie-nascoste/981310/legambiente-traffico-di-rifiuti-il-preferito-dalla-criminalita.html>
<https://www.lagazzettadelmezzogiorno.it/news/home/981138/traffico-di-rifiuti-scoperto-tra-la-puglia-africa-e-iran.html>

Case 5. Spain

Title Police in Spain put brakes on international illicit used tyre gang

Date 23 April 2018

Type of waste Tyres

Quantity/Value N.A.

Routes From Europe to South America and Africa

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal export of used tyres destined for destruction

Criminal organisation Involvement of an organised criminal network (9 arrests)

Summary In an operation backed by Europol and Ameripol, police in Spain have disrupted an organised criminal network that made hundreds of thousands of euros from illegally selling used tyres sourced from European member states in South America and Africa. The effort resulted in the arrest of nine people who are suspected of being members of a Spanish-based gang that acquired large quantities of used tyres that were destined for destruction.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.illicit-trade.com/2018/04/police-in-spain-put-brakes-on-international-illicit-used-tyre-gang/>

Case 6. United Kingdom

Title Recycled plastic from Chelmsford has been found in bales stockpiled in Hong Kong - ready to go into landfill.

Date 24 January 2018

Type of waste Plastics

Quantity/ Value Thousands of tons

Routes United Kingdom / Poland to Hong Kong

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi N.A.

Criminal organisation Possible companies involved

Summary Bottles and recycling from here were found still in council recycling bags. It's as the environment secretary has admitted the UK has been 'exporting too much waste', after an investigation found thousands of tons of plastic earmarked for landfill across the world. (...) Essex Reclamation has informed Chelmsford City Council that the company uses Eurokey Recycling as one of the merchants that they deal with. Chelmsford City Council has no direct relationship with

Eurokey, and therefore does not supply any materials directly to them, but clearly material collected at kerbside may well have been onward transferred to Eurokey by Essex Reclamation. "Regarding the waste that was found in the yards in Hong Kong, any claims of illegal waste export with evidence that Eurokey Recycling exported the material, would be a matter for the company to take up.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.heart.co.uk/essex/news/local/recycled-plastic-from-chelmsford-found-in/>

Case 7. United Kingdom

Title Fraudster ordered to pay back £1.3 million after conning electrical waste industry

Date 7 February 2019

Type of waste E-waste, household waste

Quantity/Value N.A.

Routes From the United Kingdom to Nigeria

Type of crimes/Modus Operandi

- illegitimately claims of money through government-backed Producer Compliance Schemes for collecting and recycling waste that in reality, the company had never handle.
- VAT fraud
- Exporting hazardous waste to Nigeria

Criminal organisation N.A

Summary A Leeds man has been ordered to pay back £1,373,060 he illegally earned after the conclusion of a proceeds of crime hearing at Leeds Crown Court. Dugbo was found guilty in 2016 of falsifying paperwork from his Leeds based firm, TLC Recycling LTD, to illegitimately claim money through government-backed Producer Compliance Schemes for collecting and recycling over 19,500 tonnes of household electrical waste during 2011. In reality, his company had never handled the amounts of waste described and he was not entitled to the substantial fees he was paid. He had also tried to reduce previous benefit totalling more than £96,000 for convictions for VAT fraud in 2014 at Leeds Crown Court and exporting hazardous waste to Nigeria in 2011 at Basildon Crown Court.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jailed-fraudster-ordered-to-repay-14-million>

Case 8. France

Waste trafficking dismantled in the Alpes-Maritimes

Date 15-3-2018

Type of waste Hazardous waste

Quantity/Value N.A.

Routes N.A.

Type of crimes/Modus Operandi N.A.

Criminal organisation Involvement of companies (site managers, traders, subcontractors)

Summary Illegal disposal of hazardous waste. Nine men (site managers, traders, subcontractors) involved in the creation of waste transport and storage front companies
<https://www.francebleu.fr/infos/faits-divers-justice/entreprises-trafics-1521195801>
<http://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/alpes-maritimes-les-trafiquants-jetaient-les-dechets-dans-les-cours-d-eau-15-03-2018-7610841.php>

Case 9. France

Title Organised crime - Juicy traffic of used batteries
Date 10-9-2018
Type of waste Used batteries mixed with scrap metal
Quantity/Value 17 tonnes
Routes N.A.
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illegal export of used batteries mixed with scrap metal
Criminal organisation Two companies involved.
Summary Two entrepreneurs were presented as the head of the traffic of 1000 used batteries mixed with scrap metal founded by customs in containers in 2012, equivalent to 17 tons of hazardous wastes.
For more information, please visit: <https://www.lexpressmada.com/10/09/2018/crime-organise-traffic-juteux-de-batteries-usagees/>

Case 10. The Netherlands

Title Illegal collection of non-usable bunker fuel
Date 12-12-2018
Type of waste Bunker oil
Quantity/Value N.A.
Routes Netherlands-Belgium
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illegal export – without permit
Criminal organisation N.A.
Summary Non-usable bunker fuel was exported illegally (without permit) from the Netherlands to Belgium.
For more information, please visit: <http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:GHDHA:2018:3444>

Case 11. The Netherlands

Title Plastic Waste
Date 5-1-2018
Type of waste Plastic

Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	N.A.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Export of old potato bags that were contaminated, not meeting legislation for transport.
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Illegal export of contaminated plastic bags
For more information, please visit:	http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:RBAMS:2018:5538

Case 12. The Netherlands

Title	Conviction for illegal export for shipbreaking in India
Date	15-03-2018
Type of waste	Ships
Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	Netherlands-India
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export of toxic ships
Criminal organisation	Involvement of six companies
Summary	The court decided to fine six companies fines between €50.000 to €750.000 for illegal export of toxic ships to India.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.noordzee.nl/veroordelingen-voor-illegale-sloop-van-nederlandse-schepen-in-india/

Case 13. The Netherlands

Title	Another Dutch ship owner faces huge fine for having beached a vessel
Date	20-01-2019
Type of waste	Ships
Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	Netherlands-India
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	N.A.
Criminal organisation	Company fined
Summary	Dutch ship owner Holland Maas Scheepvaart Beheer II BV has been fined 780.000 EUR and paid a settlement of 2.2 million EUR - totaling to a price tag of almost 3 million EUR - for having beached a ship for scrapping in India.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.shipbreakingplatform.org/press-release-dutch-ship-owner-holland-maas-fined/

Case 14. Poland

Title	Poland vows to fight illegal waste dumps after toxic fires
Date	29-05-2018
Type of waste	N.A.
Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	EU/UK-Poland
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import of waste and illegal burning of waste.
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	More than 60 fires took place at dumps in Poland this year and officials said many were likely to have been deliberately started so as to destroy illegal waste brought into Poland from other countries. They linked the influx of waste into Poland to a decision this year by China to ban imports of many waste products.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-poland-waste/poland-vows-to-fight-illegal-waste-dumps-after-toxic-fires-idUSKCN1IU1QZ https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/poland-illegal-waste-uk-return-plastic-pollution-environment-agency-greenpeace-a8491201.html

Asia**Case 15. South Korea**

Title	Korea takes flak for illegal waste export to Philippines
Date	11-12-2018
Type of waste	Plastics, used batteries, diapers
Quantity/Value	6,500 tons
Routes	South-Korea to the Philippines
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal shipments
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	According to Greenpeace, a total of 6,500 tons of garbage was illegally shipped to the Philippines on two occasions — July 21 and Oct. 20 — declared as plastic synthetic flakes. However, the shipment contained plastics, used batteries, and diapers. A Korean company, Verde Soko Philippine Industrial, was the consignee of the shipment. While the 5,100 tons of trash has been dumped in a rubbish heap, the remaining 1,400 tons has been impounded by the Philippine Bureau of Customs at the Mindanao International Container Terminal, being kept in 51 containers. "The shipment was an unlawful act by a local waste exporter. We are set to take legal action to get the company to address the issue," said an official of the environment ministry.
For more information, please visit:	http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2018/12/371_260197.html http://manilastandard.net/news/national/281678/ecowaste-wants-controversial-garbage-back-to-south-korea.html

Case 16.
Malaysia

Title Malaysia's rising illegal plastic recycling factories

Date 26-01-2019

Type of waste Plastic

Quantity/Value Malaysia's imports of plastic waste from its 10 biggest source countries jumped to 456,000 tons between January and July, versus 316,600 tons purchased in all of 2017 and 168,500 tons in 2016. The United States exported an estimated 178,238 tons of plastic waste to Malaysia.

Routes From: United States, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia
To: Malaysia

Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illegal recycling plants and import

Criminal organisation N.A.

Summary Malaysia is fast becoming the top destination for plastic waste exported from other countries. It is a booming industry, but an increase in the number of illegal recycling plants is already causing environmental hazards and not all of the waste can be recycled, leaving Malaysia to find a way to dispose of it.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2019/01/malaysias-rising-illegal-plastic-recycling-factories-190126151235480.html>,
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/10/26/asia-pacific/illegal-factories-cash-malaysias-plastics-recycling-plan/#.XGF5mVVKiCh>
<https://theecologist.org/2018/oct/23/plastics-uk-homes-found-malaysias-illegal-dumps>

Case 17.
Malaysia

Title Govt shuts 30 illegal plastic recycling plants as Malaysia draws waste from abroad

Date 16-10-2018

Type of waste Plastic

Quantity/Value N.A.

Routes N.A.

Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illegal recycling plants

Criminal organisation N.A.

Summary In its efforts to ensure that Malaysia does not end up as the "developed nations' plastic trash bin" the government has shut down more than 30 illegal plastic recycling factories. Energy, Green Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin told Dewan Rakyat today that she was aware of the public complaints and has taken stern efforts to curb illegal plastic recycling

factories. "More than 30 illegal plastic recycling factories processing imported plastic wastes have been shut down. I was on the ground together with government agencies and we did not just shut them down we also cut their electricity, water supply and arrested the factory owners.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2018/10/16/govt-shutters-30-illegal-plastic-recycling-plants-as-malaysia-draws-waste-f/1683393>
<https://www.zdf.de/politik/frontal-21/kritik-an-muellexporten-nach-asien-104.html>

Case 18. China

Title Crackdown on waste smuggling a 2019 priority

Date 29-01-2019

Type of waste N.A.

Quantity/Value Smuggling of 1.55 million metric tons of waste

Routes N.A.

Type of crimes/ N.A.

Modus

Operandi

Criminal organisation Summary

During the inspections of 1155 companies 236 violations were found. 72 companies were suspected of selling their import quotas. Despite waste imports to China falling almost in half in 2018, the General Administration of Customs said cracking down on smuggling will be a priority this year. Customs officers across the country investigated 481 criminal cases related to waste smuggling last year, involving about 1.55 million metric tons of garbage, according to the administration. Waste imports dropped 46.5 percent in 2018 from the year before. During inspections of the 1,155 enterprises with licenses to import plastic waste, the administration found violations in 236. 72 of the companies were suspected of selling their import quotas, according to a China News Service report. In July 2017, central authorities decided to phase out imported waste and switch to domestic alternatives by 2020. So far, China has banned the import of 40 types of waste. The ban will be further expanded to another eight types in July and another 16 by year's end, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

For more information, please visit: http://www.china.org.cn/china/2019-01/29/content_74420325.htm

Case 19. Pakistan

Title Pakistan among world's top 3 ship scrapping countries

Date 04-10-2018

Type of waste Ships

Quantity/Value Globally, 22.916 million tons of vessels were demolished. In Pakistan 3.5 million tons of vessels were demolished in 2018, in India 6.32 million tons and Bangladesh 6.26 million tons.

Routes N.A.

Type of crimes/ N.A.

Modus

Operandi

Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Pakistan ranked one of the top three ship scrapping countries in the world, ahead of neighbouring China, as the south Asian country demolished around 3.5 million tons of vessels during the last year. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) data showed that Pakistan scrapped 3.459 million tons of vessels in 2017, a little more than the world's second largest economy China's 3.445 million tons. India and Bangladesh, however, were the biggest ship scrappers with 6.323 and 6.260 million tons of demolition.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/376280-pakistan-among-world-s-top-3-ship-scrapping-countries-unctad

Case 20. Thailand

Title	Choking to death on trash: Thailand's toxic secret
Date	11-06-2018
Type of waste	E-waste, plastic, other
Quantity/Value	200 metrics tons were found dumped, four containers with 58 tons of plastics were found
Routes	N.A.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	"It also happened because of loopholes in our laws," Gen. Wirachai Songmetta said. "The Customs Department is not able to examine all containers. That's how they slipped into the country. ... All types of electronic waste will be X-rayed."
Criminal organisation	Involvement of 12 companies that are importing old electronics from countries that are not allowed to export waste to Thailand and are therefore committing tax fraud and evasion.
Summary	The customs in Thailand were notified by the police to review companies involved in waste import and toughen its inspection in response to discovery of massive loads of illegally imported garbage. "We have not found any government department conspiring with this illegal activity. It also happened because of loopholes in our laws," Gen. Wirachai Songmetta said. "The Customs Department is not able to examine all containers. That's how they slipped into the country. ... All types of electronic waste will be X-rayed." He added that an audit by the revenue department found 12 such companies that are importing old electronics from countries that are not allowed to export waste to Thailand and are therefore committing tax fraud and evasion. Over 200 metric tons of plastic and electronic waste were found dumped Friday in an unlicensed factory in northern metro Bangkok. Police suspect it was brought in from other countries as all employees in the facility were foreigners – mostly Chinese. On June 1, four containers with 58 tons of plastic waste stuffed into them were found in the eastern district of Lat Krabang. Wirachai said they belonged to a company licensed for importing plastic waste, but the stock was dirty or contaminated with chemical substances, which is not allowed as it cannot be recycled or reused.
For more information, please visit:	http://www.khaosodenglish.com/featured/2018/06/11/choking-to-death-on-trash-thailands-toxic-secret/

**Case 21.
Thailand**

Title E-waste shunned by China piles up in Thailand

Date 13-06-2018

Type of waste E-waste, plastic

Quantity/Value **Plastics:** While in 2017 a total of 145,000 tonnes of plastic waste were imported into Thailand in the first five months of 2018 already 212,000 tonnes of plastic waste were imported.
Electronics: While in 2017 in total 64,600 tonnes of electronic waste were imported, in the first five months of 2018, already 52,200 tonnes of electronic waste were imported.

Routes **From:** Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan
To: Thailand, most important entry Port: Laem Chabang Port in Chon Buri province (90% of the waste)

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Criminal organisation N.A.

Summary

Plastic and electronic waste banned from import by China is now engulfing Thailand, the Customs Department spokesman said Wednesday. Chaiyut Khamkhun said that in the whole of last year, 145,000 tonnes of plastic waste was imported for recycling -- but 212,000 tonnes has arrived in just the first five months of this year. Imports of electronic waste last year amounted to 64,400 tonnes, but the figure has already reached 52,200 tonnes in the first five months of 2018. The waste has increasingly been diverted to Thailand since China banned its importation, the spokesman said. Ninety percent of the waste was imported through the Laem Chabang port in Chon Buri province. About 500 containers - each weighing about 20 tonnes - have arrived at the port every month so far this year.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1484385/e-waste-shunned-by-china-piles-up-in-thailand>, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-pollution-ewaste/thailand-is-new-dumping-ground-for-worlds-high-tech-trash-police-say-idUSKCN11V0T9?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=twitter



WasteForce Crime Alert #2

March - May 2019

Date: 31 May 2019

Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



The WasteForce project is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP/2017/AG/ENV/821345)

WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 2

1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The Waste Force project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications and policy updates. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #2 summarises information that was published between March 2019 and May 2019. The waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

5. Introduction
6. Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
7. New videos and documentaries
8. Summary of News cases published, see also the overview in Annex II

2. Summary of new publications and legislative and governance updates. ([Annex I](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of recent publications, highlighting important trafficking routes, hot spots, modus operandi and so on. A summary and references to each publication can also be found in Annex I.

Legislation and governance

In April 2019 the European Commission published the second Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), an overview of how EU environmental policies and laws are applied on the ground. The policy background refers to the enforcement the illegal shipment or dumping of waste, and to the “Action plan on Compliance Assurance” to deliver good practices and guidance on how to combat environmental crime. Some tools are promoted to digitalise enforcement administration. During the Basel Convention COPs in May 2019 governments agreed on landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste. INTERPOL reported that G7 Interior Ministers have called for increased operational cooperation and sharing of law enforcement information via INTERPOL to better combat human trafficking, terrorism and environmental crime. It was also estimated that environmental criminals generate between USD 110 and 281 billion in illicit profits each

year. Finally, on the national level an agreement was signed between different authorities in Italy, the Carabinieri and the Parliamentary Ecomafia Commission to enhance cooperation on countering waste crime.

Reports on Plastic Pollution and on Health Impacts

Several reports were published the last months on plastic pollution. WWF published a report on plastic pollution that calls for collective global action. WWF estimated that in 2016 4% of global plastic was exported, amounting to roughly 13 million metric tons, of which G7 countries were the source for nearly 50 per cent of this export waste. WWF also estimated that without China's waste management system, 111 million metric tons of plastic waste would be displaced by 2030.

A report by Gaia describes the results of a five-year study in the Philippines, it was concluded that waste assessments and brand audits are helping Philippine cities fight plastic pollution. A report by the Environmental Investigation Agency and Greenpeace describes the plastic habits of UK supermarkets and how they address plastic pollution. And finally, two reports by the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) focus on the contribution of plastic to greenhouse gas emissions and the impact it has on human health. A report by the Health Council of the Netherlands describes how circular economy can also be structured in such a way to prevent health risks.

Law Enforcement Article on waste by World Customs Organisation

In February 2019 World Customs Organisation published an article on illegal waste trafficking. In this article WCO estimates that between 1992 and 2012, the volume of waste traded grew from 45.6 million tonnes to 222.6 million tonnes, an increase of more than 500% in just two decades. And the proportion of the world's waste being exported to developing countries grew by 40% between 1998 and 2009. The article briefly discusses the impact of the Chinese ban on waste, and the importance of data sharing and international cooperation and concludes that more data is key to get a better grip on this trade. In February 2019 WCO also published an update on its DEMETER operation. Another DEMETER operation is due to take place in 2019, and it is hoped that Customs administrations will once again join together to demonstrate their commitment to fighting illegal waste trafficking.

3. Videos and documentaries

Video Organisation	Waste Shipment Regulation: animated training video European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) Rob de Rijck, Chair of the LIFE-ENPE Waste Crime Working Group has worked closely with other members of the group to plan, script and develop a short-animated training video on the new Waste Shipment Regulation for prosecutors and other specialists. The 3-minute animation took several
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	weeks to develop, with ENPE working in consultation with specialist animators.
Link	To access the training including an option with English subtitles, please see the following links: with subtitles: https://vimeo.com/333388717 without: https://vimeo.com/333388494
Documentary	“Cement’s Dirty Business”
Organisation	Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)
Summary	A new OCCRP investigation reveals multiple levels of crime and negligence in Europe’s growing waste-to-energy trade. In “Cement’s Dirty Business,” OCCRP journalists travel across Europe to show how Romania’s \$750 million cement industry now runs largely on trash, sometimes smuggled in from foreign countries with little regard for health or safety.
Link	5. https://www.occrp.org/en/documentaries/cements-dirty-business/

4. Analysis of news cases ([Annex II](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between March 2019 and May 2019. In total, 21 cases were found, of which an overview can also be found in Annex III.

Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the type of waste.
For more information follow this [Link](#).



Types of waste, quantities and routes

In the identified 21 cases different types of waste were reported. In four cases it involved hazardous waste, in three cases plastic waste, in two cases ozone depleting substances (ODS) and in two cases e-waste. In addition, other types of waste that were reported are household waste, pesticides, bunker oil and mercury. Most of the identified cases (16) involve illegal exports of waste within or from Europe (including to Africa, Asia and South America), four cases involve illegal exports or disposals in Asia and finally two cases involved North America, see an overview of the types of wastes and routes in table 1.

In some of the cases the quantities of waste were reported, for example from Canada to Malaysia more than 100 containers were reported to be exported with plastic waste. In an operation in China 338,100 tons of waste were seized. In an illegal export from Italy to Burkina Faso, 950 non-functioning solar panels were found. However, most cases do not report the quantity or only a relatively small quantity (e.g. one container or one vehicle), see for more detailed information also Annex II.

Types of waste reported	Cases and Routes
E-waste	Case 10. Netherlands > Tanzania
	Case 15. Italy > Burkina Faso / Togo
Plastic	Case 1. not reported > Malaysia
	Case 19. Italy > Croatia
	Case 3. Unknown > China
Ozone Depleting Substances	Case 12. Spain > Panama
	Case 5. China
Hazardous waste	Case 6. Poland>Czech Republic

Household waste Bunker oil Pesticides Mercury Unspecified / other	Case 14. France
	Case 17. Italy
	Case 18. Greece > Mediterranean Sea
	Case 4. Canada > Philippines
	Case 21. United States
	Case 8. Poland > Netherlands
	Case 7. Netherlands > Suriname
	Case 2. South East China > Indonesia
	Case 9. Netherlands > United Arab Emirates
	Case 11. United Kingdom > Poland
	Case 13. Spain > United Kingdom/France
	Case 16. Italy
	Case 20. Slovenia

Table 2: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Modus operandi

In most cases only the type of crime was reported, but the modus operandi was not specified. At least ten cases involved illegal exports, and 5 cases involved illegal dumping/disposal of waste. Also, fraud and corruption were reported. The illegal export cases involved the following modus operandi: smuggling (1 case), exports of used goods without notification (2 cases) and export with false or wrong declaration (4) cases. Furthermore, in two of the identified cases waste was illegally traded online.

Criminal organisations

In nine of the cases was reported that there were one or multiple companies involved. In five of the cases a 'criminal organisation' was reported, of which in one was referred to a 'mafia' like organisation. In one case also illegal trade was done in cooperation with family members.

Sentences

Different types of penalties were reported in the cases. In four of the cases these were administrative penalties, including fines ranging from 4,000€ to 11,000€ and one fine of 40\$ million for illegal disposal of waste (including oil) on a cruise ship. In two cases the suspects were sentenced to community service. There were also persons arrested in three cases and in one case sentenced to 6-8 months suspended prison sentence and in one case to five years of probation. Furthermore, for the illegal exports, in two cases a take-back procedure was initiated. See also Annex III for detailed information on all cases.

Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) including 28 country reports

Organisation European Commission

Date 05 April 2019

Summary In April 2019 the European Commission published the second Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), an overview of how EU environmental policies and laws are applied on the ground. The EIR includes a communication of the policy findings, a policy background document and 28 country reports. One of the thematic areas of the EIR is waste management. Turning waste into a resource is supported by: (i) fully implementing EU waste legislation, which includes the waste hierarchy, the need to ensure separate collection of waste, the landfill diversion targets, etc.; (ii) reducing waste generation and waste generation per capita in absolute terms; and (iii) limiting energy recovery to non-recyclable materials and phasing out landfilling of recyclable or recoverable waste. SDG 12, mentioned above, supports actions on the field of waste management. The EIR Policy background also includes an assessment of Environmental governance. The policy background refers to the enforcement of the illegal shipment or dumping of waste. The EIR review also refers to the “Action plan on Compliance Assurance” to deliver good practices and guidance on how to combat environmental crime. The EIR review also refers to the EU policy of recognising environmental crime and especially wildlife and waste trafficking as a priority. The EIR review lists the actions led by enforcement agencies against environmental offences with support of EUROPOL. The review also notes that the networks of professionals (e.g. IMPEL) are playing a crucial role and the Commission intends to further strengthen their role.

Finally, digitalisation and e-Government services can also help to develop a more effective and better integrated enforcement administration. The EIR review suggests two tools to develop a more effective and better integrated enforcement administration:

- The “Quality of Public Administration - A Toolbox for Practitioners: The Toolbox aims to support, guide and encourage those who want to modernise public administrations in support of prosperous, fair and resilient societies. It is intended as a reference and resource by pointing readers to existing EU policies and international practices, illustrated by almost 170 inspirational case studies.
- The European eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020: proposes an ambitious vision to make public administrations and public institutions in the European Union open, efficient and inclusive, providing borderless, personalised, user-friendly, end-to-end digital public services to all citizens and businesses in the EU.

Links

- Website of the Environmental Implementation Review: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/index_en.htm
- EIR 28 Country Reports: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/country-reports/index_en.htm

- The Quality of Public Administration - A **Toolbox** for Practitioners: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/quality-public-administration-toolbox-practitioners>
- The European eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0179>

Title G7 ministers recognize INTERPOL's role (in countering environmental crime)
Organisation INTERPOL
Date 05 April 2019
Summary G7 Interior Ministers have called for increased operational cooperation and sharing of law enforcement information via INTERPOL to better combat human trafficking, terrorism and environmental crime. With environmental criminals estimated to generate between USD 110 and 281 billion in illicit profits each year, the G7 ministers said national law enforcement capabilities to conduct transnational investigations and operations needed to be enhanced along with increased information-sharing via INTERPOL. The need for a collective approach by law enforcement agencies, customs, environmental agencies, prosecutors and NGOs – as per the National Environmental Security Task Force template developed by INTERPOL – was also underlined at the meeting.
Link <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2019/G7-ministers-recognize-INTERPOL-s-role>

Title Governments agree landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste
Organisation UN Environment
Date 12 May 2019
Summary Basel Convention COPs 2019: Governments agree landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste.
Link <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/governments-agree-landmark-decisions-protect-people-and-planet>

Title Cooperation agreement (MoU) signed between the Italian Carabinieri and the Parliamentary Ecomafia Commission to counter illicit waste activities
Organisation The Italian Carabinieri and the Ecomafia commission
Date 16 May 2019
Summary A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Carabinieri and the Ecomafia commission to facilitate cooperation in different areas, including the exchange of information and operational cooperation to counter offences in the waste sector. Thanks to the protocol, the parties will be able to collaborate in carrying out judicial police activities. Additionally, training activities will be organized, best practices will be exchanged and internships organized.
Link http://www.ansa.it/canale_ambiente/notizie/istituzioni/2019/05/16/accordo-di-lavoro-fra-carabinieri-e-commissione-ecomafie_753a9ffb-8953-47a4-a4e4-554c1ffc3a9b.html

Reports on plastic pollution and on health impacts

Title Solving Plastic pollution 2019 through accountability

Organisation WWF
Year 05 March 2019
Summary The report by WWF is a call for collective global action. WWF urges governments, industries, and members of the public to acknowledge that the current global approach to addressing the plastics crisis is failing and calls on them to take actions. It argues that due to waste mismanagement, one-third of plastic waste is estimated to have entered nature as land, freshwater or marine pollution. Mismanaged waste is a direct result of underdeveloped waste management infrastructure. According to WWF, in 2016, four per cent of global plastic waste was exported, amounting to roughly 13 million metric tons, of which G7 countries were the source for nearly 50 per cent of this export waste. China recently increased quality standards for plastic waste imports into the country resulting in these G7 nations unable to export to China due to their highly contaminated domestic waste³¹. Given that two-thirds of all plastic waste exports had previously arrived in China, further changes to trade patterns could have a significant impact on plastic pollution. Without China's waste management system, it is estimated that 111 million metric tons of plastic waste would be displaced by 2030. Unless plastic exporters heighten their contamination standards, or countries invest in their own recycling capacity, the international plastics trade will remain fragile, and will risk exacerbating the damage that plastics have on the environment.

Link http://www.wwf.gr/images/pdfs/Solving_plastic_pollution_through_accountability.pdf

Title **How Waste Assessments and Brand Audits are Helping Philippine Cities Fight Plastic Pollution.**

Organisation Gaia
Date 07 March 2019
Summary The report, Plastics exposed: How waste assessments and brand audits are helping Philippine cities fight plastic pollution, uses data from household waste assessments and brand audits (WABA)[1] conducted by Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) in six cities and seven municipalities[2] across the country in the past five years. GAIA extrapolated the data to calculate daily and yearly plastic usage throughout the country in order to provide new quantitative evidence about plastic pollution in the Philippines. The report is being launched ahead of the UN Environment Assembly meeting next week, where plastic pollution will be discussed.

Link <http://www.no-burn.org/plastics-exposed/>

Title **Hazardous substances in a circular economy**

Organisation Health Council of the Netherlands
Date 15 May 2019
Summary Hazardous substances in a circular economy; an ideal circular economy all materials and products are reused and production of waste is zero. More recycling will take place in a circular economy than in the current one. Via recycling, hazardous substances may unintentionally end up in toys or food packaging for example. This can cause adverse health effects.

The Dutch Health Council sees opportunities to structure the circular economy in such a way that health risks are largely prevented.

- Link** <https://www.healthcouncil.nl/documents/advisory-reports/2018/05/15/hazardous-substances-in-a-circular-economy>
- Title** **Checking out plastics. A survey of UK supermarkets' plastic habits**
Organisation Environmental Investigation Agency - Greenpeace
Date 2019
Summary Plastic from supermarket shelves represents a huge proportion of the total amount flooding onto the UK market each year – with even more of the material used before we place an item in our basket. Behind the scenes, plastic is endemic throughout the grocery supply chain: from the fields of plastic polytunnels used to grow fruit and vegetables through to the packaging used in transportation. All this comes at a huge environmental and social cost which we are just beginning to understand. In this report, the Environmental Investigation Agency and Greenpeace UK present the findings of the most comprehensive survey to date on how supermarkets are addressing plastic pollution.
<https://checkingoutonplastics.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/04/Checking-out-on-plastics.pdf>
- Title** **Plastic & Climate: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet**
Organisation CIEL Center for International Environmental Law
Date May 2019
Summary Amidst growing concern about the impacts of plastic on the oceans, ecosystems, and human health, there's another largely hidden dimension of the plastic crisis: plastic's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. This report examines each of these stages of the plastic lifecycle to identify the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, sources of uncounted emissions, and uncertainties that likely lead to underestimation of plastic's climate impacts. The report compares greenhouse gas emissions estimates against global carbon budgets and emissions commitments, and it considers how current trends and projections will impact our ability to reach agreed emissions targets. It also compiles data, such as downstream emissions and future growth rates, that have not previously been accounted for in widely used climate models. This accounting paints a grim picture: plastic proliferation threatens our planet and the climate at a global scale.
- Link** <https://www.ciel.org/reports/plastic-health-the-hidden-costs-of-a-plastic-planet-may-2019/>
- Title** **Plastic & Health: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet**
Organisation CIEL Center for International Environmental Law
Date February 2019
Summary Despite being one of the most pervasive materials on the planet, plastic and its impact on human health is poorly understood. Human exposure to it grows with increasing plastic production and use. Research into the human health impacts of plastic to date have focused narrowly on specific moments in the plastic lifecycle, from wellhead to refinery, from store shelves to human bodies, and from disposal to ongoing impacts as air pollutants and ocean plastic.

Individually, each stage of the plastic lifecycle poses significant risks to human health. Together, the lifecycle impacts of plastic paint an unequivocally toxic picture: plastic threatens human health on a global scale.

Link <https://www.ciel.org/reports/plastic-health-the-hidden-costs-of-a-plastic-planet-february-2019/>

Reports from Law Enforcement

Title **WCO News 88 - Illegal waste trafficking: more data is key to getting a better grip on this trade**

Organisation World Customs Organization

Date February 2019

Summary Between 1992 and 2012, the volume of waste traded grew from 45.6 million tonnes to 222.6 million tonnes, an increase of more than 500% in just two decades! The proportion of the world's waste being exported to developing countries grew by 40% between 1998 and 2009. Considering that, in 2016, the world generated 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, the global waste trade today places severe pressure on developing countries. Africa and the Asia/Pacific regions are key destinations for large shipments of waste, especially e-waste, plastics, and various scrap metals. In West Africa, significant recipients include Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria. In Asia, favoured destinations include Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in the South, and China, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Vietnam in the Far East. Since 1 January 2018, China has banned the importation of 24 types of solid waste and scrap, including scrap metal, plastic waste, and e-waste. Although comprehensive statistics on global trade flows are lacking, estimates show that until that date, China was by far the biggest importer of waste, receiving half of all global waste imports, with Hong Kong acting as a major transit point.

Illicit flows

Illegal activities take different forms: transporting waste on the black market, mixing different types of waste, declaring hazardous waste as non-hazardous, or classifying waste as second-hand goods. Indeed, when products are classified as second-hand goods, they are no longer governed by international waste regulations and can be traded with developing countries. (...) These imports also put pressure on port infrastructure. Since China introduced the ban, neighbouring countries and certain African countries have become increasingly targeted by shippers of illegal waste. Even when shipments are legal, these countries find themselves lacking the capacity to accommodate them at their ports and other points of entry.

Lack of data

It should be stressed repeatedly that there is still not enough data available to get a clear picture of illicit international waste flows. In order to identify trafficking trends as accurately as possible and enhance risk management, countries must register their seizures in their national enforcement database, as well as in the WCO Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) database. Such data will enable the targeting of Customs and law enforcement operations to be refined, whilst providing qualitative intelligence. In the training domain, the recently [Green](#)

[Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements \(MEAs\)](#) has been updated.

Link https://mag.wcoomd.org/uploads/2019/02/WCONews88_UK.pdf

Title **WCO News 88 – Operation Demeter**

Organisation World Customs Organization

Date February 2019

Summary In order to get a snapshot of illicit trade flows in waste and to strongly encourage further attention and action from Customs administrations, the WCO decided, in 2009, to organize an enforcement operation called Operation DEMETER. During the seven-week long operation, Customs administrations in 65 countries targeted illicit cross-border shipments of hazardous and other waste en route from seaports in Europe to seaports in Africa and the Asia/Pacific region. A second, third and fourth incarnation of the operation was launched in 2012, 2013 and 2018 respectively. This time, all modes of transportation and all routes used for the illegal shipment of waste were targeted. Once again, seizures were mostly made at European departure points, with West Africa as a major destination region, especially for used car parts and, increasingly, for e-waste.

DEMETER IV saw the best results in terms of the volume of waste seized, yielding over 326,133 tonnes and 54,782 pieces of various types of waste, including mineral slag, plastics, e-waste, waste rubber, municipal waste, clothes, paper, scrap metal and batteries. The largest single seizure was a shipment of about 180,000 tonnes of smelting slag from Spain, which was intercepted by China Customs.

During the course of each operation, Customs officers shared intelligence and applied profiling and targeting techniques to identify high-risk consignments shipped on all routes and via all modalities. Participants relied on CENcomm, the WCO's secure and encrypted communication tool, to exchange information on concealment methods and on the identity of the infringers and the parties involved. It goes without saying that sustained communication between Customs administrations could result in more timely interception of illegal shipments and better intelligence.

The biggest challenge

Illegal waste trafficking is a little-known, lucrative business with devastating consequences for human health and the environment. A lot of knowledge can be extracted from databases using data mining techniques, supporting effective frontline enforcement at borders. Unfortunately, collecting decent amounts of quality data from Customs administrations remains the biggest challenge. Solving this challenge will not only contribute to better enforcement, but also have a far-reaching impact on efforts to protect the environment, as well as the safety of people around the world.

For more information, please visit: https://mag.wcoomd.org/uploads/2019/02/WCONews88_UK.pdf

Annex II: Cases reported in the news

Asia

Case 1. Malaysia

Title	Checks show dirty plastic still being smuggled into Malaysian ports
Date	April 23, 2019
Type of waste	Plastic
Quantity/Value	24 cargo containers containing contaminated plastic waste
Routes	Port Klang, Malaysia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Smuggling of contaminated plastic waste that was declared as 'clean waste'
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	The smuggling of contaminated plastic waste into the country is still ongoing, even though the government has banned the import of such materials last year. The smuggling activities were unearthed following the discovery of 24 cargo containers at West Port, containing contaminated plastic waste which could no longer be recycled. " All the 24 containers were declared as having 'clean' waste. However, further checks showed that they contained prohibited material. We also received reports of containers bearing contaminated plastic waste in North Port as well as in Penang. "This month, the authorities will conduct operations at all ports nationwide. We are serious in our aim to tackle this issue. We have already identified the import company. 148 illegal plastic recycling plants nationwide, including those which failed to comply with the Environmental Quality Act 1974, were shut down from January to date.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/04/482312/checks-show-dirty-plastic-still-being-smuggled-malaysian-ports

Case 2. Indonesia

Title	6. Dutch dredger seized for alleged waste dumping
Date	10 April 2019
Type of waste	Unknown
Quantity/Value	Unknown
Routes	South East China- Indonesia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Waste dumping at sea
Enforcement Action	The Captain (of Dutch nationality) and 15 crew (including Dutch, Ukrainian, Polish and Filipino nationalities) were detained or arrested, for investigation. Captain is facing 2-year imprisonment or fine of some \$21,000
Criminal organisation	Captain (of Dutch nationality) and 15 crew (including Dutch, Ukrainian, Polish and Filipino nationalities)

Summary Indonesian Navy fast respond unit on Apr 8 detained or arrested Dutch hopper dredger VOX MAXIMA in Galang Island waters, Riau islands, Indonesia, south of Singapore Strait, for alleged waste dumping, without clarifying the character of dumped waste, and its' quantity. According to available information and AIS records, dredger was working in South East China sea waters for years. It is not clear, and it wasn't explained, why did dredger sail to Indonesian waters and why it was illegal, if according to Master's statement, dredger was managed by Singaporean company. It can be assumed from Indonesian reports, that the Captain (of Dutch nationality) and 15 crew (including Dutch, Ukrainian, Polish and Filipino nationalities) were detained or arrested, for investigation. Captain is facing 2-year imprisonment or fine of some \$21,000.

For more information, please visit: <https://maritimebulletin.net/2019/04/10/dutch-dredger-seized-for-alleged-waste-dumping/>

Case 3. China

Title China launches fresh wave of anti-waste smuggling action
Date 12 April 2019
Type of waste The waste included plastics and slag
Quantity/Value In 2018 338,100 tons of waste were seized
Routes Unknown
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Smuggling
Enforcement Action In 2018 481 cases of illegal waste activity were uncovered. In 2019 so far 22 smuggling operations were identified, and 115 suspects have been detained.
Criminal organisation Unknown
Summary

This follows on from ten months of enforcement action over the last year, dubbed 'Blue Sky 2018' which saw a reported 481 cases of illegal waste activity uncovered by customs officials. Details of the 2019 Blue Sky campaign were outlined by the General administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) today (12 April), with a focus on 'control and prevention of illicit import of waste'.

GACC said that the campaign has so far focused on 11 Customs Districts in eight provinces, and has identified 22 smuggling operations, with 115 suspects having been detained. This includes the seizure of 338,100 tons of waste including plastics and slag. "Since this year (till March 20), the legally imported solid waste has reached 3.02 million tons, down 37% year-on-year, while the investigated smuggling cases totalled 53 in number, down 43% year-on-year, with 67.9% thereof seized in the past few years.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/china-launches-fresh-wave-of-anti-waste-smuggling-action/>

Case 4. Philippines (Canada)

Title Trash talk: Philippine president to 'declare war' on Canada in waste dispute

Date	24 April 2019
Type of waste	Household and electronic waste
Quantity/Value	More than 100 containers.
Routes	Canada to Philippines
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export of household rubbish and electronic waste
Enforcement Action	In 2016, a Filipino judge ruled that Canada must take back the 1,300 tonnes of waste, which was brought to the Philippines by an importer and intercepted by the country's customs bureau.
Criminal organisation	Company
Summary	More than 100 containers of waste were shipped in batches from Canada to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014, falsely declared by a private firm as recyclable plastic scraps according to Philippine officials.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/24/philippine-president-rodrigo-duterte-to-declare-war-on-canada-in-waste-dispute https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/21562939

Case 5. China

Title	Discharges of prohibited gas, from an area of China increased by 110 per cent
Date	23 May 2019
Type of waste	Ozone depleting substances
Quantity/Value	Unknown
Routes	Unknown
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Unknown
Criminal organisation	Unknown
Summary	Article about increasing of discharges of ozone depleting substances (CFC 11) from eastern part of China.
For more information, please visit:	https://zelenigenij.24ur.com/clanek/podnebne-spremembe/v-zadnjih-treh-letih-so-se-izpusti-prepovedanega-plina-z-obmocja-kitajske-povecali-za-110-odstotkov.html

Europe

Case 6. Poland (Czech Republic)

Title	Hazardous waste exported from Poland to the Czech Republic is stored in rented production halls, buried in quarries or smoked illegally.
Date	4-3-2019
Type of waste	Hazardous chemicals
Quantity/Value	500.000 tons of waste. After deducting the costs of transporting garbage and renting a warehouse, the organizers' profit is 6,000. Crowns (~233€) on every ton of waste.
Routes	Poland - Czech Republic

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export of waste tyres and hazardous chemical waste
Criminal organisation	'Polish junk mafia'
Summary	"Mlada Fronta Dnes" noted that the waste brought to the Czech Republic in recent months is probably only a small part of what the Polish junk mafia brought to their own country. The tires come from Italy and Great Britain and the chemicals from Germany.
For more information, please visit:	https://newsbeezer.com/polandeng/mlada-fronta-dnes-on-the-import-of-hazardous-waste-from-poland-business/

Case 7. Netherlands (Suriname)

Title	Export of mercury
Date	29-1-2019
Type of waste	Pure mercury
Quantity/Value	10 kg
Routes	Netherlands-Suriname
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export of hazardous materials
Enforcement Action	Detected by Dutch customs. Sentence is 200 hours of community service.
Criminal organisation	Family related
Summary	Suspect attempted to export a quantity of pure mercury in paint cans to his sister in Suriname. Obviously for illegal gold mining. Labels of the cans were falsified.
For more information, please visit:	http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:HR:2019:114

Case 8. Netherlands (Poland)

Title	7. Import of illegal pesticides
Date	6-3-2019
Type of waste	Illegal pesticides vertimec, Apollo, Envidor, Floramite, Nissorun
Quantity/Value	Quantity unclear. Trade lasted for at least one year.
Routes	Netherlands-Poland (Polish labels)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Trade via website.
Enforcement Action	Suspect is sentenced 100 hours of community service and deprivation of 11.000,- euros
Criminal organisation	Individual with network
Summary	Multiple illegal pesticides were traded, stored and repacked provided with false labels.

For more information, please visit: <https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:RBAMS:2019:1729&showbutton=true>

Case 9. Netherlands (United Arab Emirates)

Title Export of used ball-bearings without notification
Date 14-3-2019
Type of waste Ball-bearings
Quantity/Value Container
Routes Netherlands-United Arab Emirates
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Export of used products without notification.
Enforcement Action Inspection, Administrative, fined 4000, - euro
Criminal organisation N.A.
Summary Export in used products without notification is considered illegal export of waste and a violation of the European regulation on shipments of waste (EG no. 1013/2006)

For more information, please visit: <http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:RBROT:2019:2027>

Case 10. Netherlands (Tanzania)

Title Export of WEEE to Tanzania without notification
Date 28-2-2019
Type of waste WEEE
Quantity/ Value Container which was sold for EUR 2 396
Routes Netherlands - Tanzania
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Export of used products without notification.
Enforcement Action Administrative
Criminal organisation Company involvement
Summary Tronex BV operates a wholesale residual stock business. On 10 February 2014, it was found to be planning to ship a consignment of electrical equipment, or to have it shipped, in a container to a third party in Tanzania to which it had sold the consignment for a total amount of EUR 2 396.01. Tronex had bought up the goods from retailers, wholesalers and/or importers. The consignment of goods consisted of electric kettles, steam irons, fans and shavers. Most of the appliances were in their original packaging, although some of the appliances in the consignment were unpackaged. The consignment consisted of appliances which had been returned by consumers under a product guarantee, on the one hand, and goods which, because of a change to the product range, for example, were or could no longer be sold (normally), on the other. A number of the boxes in which the appliances were

packaged carried a notice stating their defects. The glass in some of the glass kettles was damaged. The shipment was to take place without notification or consent in accordance with the Waste Shipment Regulation.

For more information, please visit: <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=211199&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1>

Case 11. United Kingdom (Poland)

Title 4,000 tonnes of waste illegally dumped in Poland returns to the UK

Date 10 Apr 2019

Type of waste Unknown

Quantity/Value 4,000 tonnes

Routes 8. United Kingdom - Poland

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi 9. The waste was illegally shipped to Poland under the guise of recycling.

Criminal organisation Three companies

Summary Almost 4,000 tonnes of poor quality, unsorted waste that was illegally shipped to Poland from the UK under the guise of recycling has been returned. The Environment Agency (EA) confirmed to ENDS that last week it had overseen the return of the waste and ensured “it has been disposed of responsibly” in the UK. In August, the agency announced three companies suspected of illegally shipping the waste were under investigation, however the EA said it was unable to comment further at this time because a criminal investigation is ongoing.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.endsreport.com/article/1581604/4000-tonnes-waste-illegally-dumped-poland-returns-uk>

Case 12. Spain (supported by EUROPOL)

Date 05 April 2019

Title How a company earned up to €1 million illegally trading ten tons of ozone depleting substances

Type of waste Ozone depleting substances

Routes Spain – Panama

Quantity/ Value 10 000 kg of R-22 gas being traded illegally as regenerated gas with €500 000 to €1 million in profit

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi The company repackaged R-22 refrigerant liquids that should have been sorted as hazardous waste

Criminal organisation A company and an organised crime group

Summary As part of a Europol coordinated operation, the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) discovered a company and an organised crime group involved in the illegal export of ozone-depleting substances. The investigation revealed that a company in Valencia,

Spain, was involved in smuggling ten tons of R-22 refrigerant gas without a legal licence, bringing in €500 000 to €1 million in profit for the criminal gang.

Police launched their investigations in 2017 when the Spanish Ministry of Environment was informed of R-22 gas allegedly being exported to Panama illegally. The operation disclosed that the company repackaged R-22 refrigerant liquids that should have been sorted as hazardous waste. This led to around 10 000 kg of R-22 gas being traded illegally as regenerated gas. The investigation revealed that these ten tons of illegally exported gas would have released 17 000 tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. A **video** has been posted on the discovery of the ozone depleting substance: <https://youtu.be/4NgID4qqrMo>

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/how-company-earned-to-%E2%82%AC1-million-illegally-trading-ten-tons-of-ozone-depleting-substances>

<https://youtu.be/4NgID4qqrMo>

Case 13. Spain (supported by EUROPOL)

Date	27 March 2019
Title	Haulier in Spain caught cheating emission regulations designed to prevent air pollution.
Routes	Spain – France, Spain- United Kingdom
Quantity/ Value	30 vehicles
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Cheat devices which disable pollution control system on lorries
Criminal organisation	Company involvement
Enforcement action	Initiated over a year ago by a regional unit of SEPRONA, this investigation was made possible thanks to the collaboration between the Spanish Guardia Civil, Europol, transport companies, lorry manufacturers and Adblue. Intelligence uncovered during this investigation has been passed on to Europol as several connections were made with France and the United Kingdom.
Summary	<p>A road haulage company based in Madrid is under investigation by the Spanish Guardia Civil (Civil Guard), and four people have been arrested, after roadside checks uncovered high levels of use of cheat devices which disable pollution control system on lorries. 30 diesel vehicles from that company were caught with such cheat devices – called emulators.</p> <p>Adblue is an additive which converts harmful nitrogen oxide from a diesel vehicle exhaust into harmless nitrogen and water steam. This process considerably reduces the emission of nitrogen oxide, which is a major source of air pollution. The emulators work by tricking the lorry’s electronic system into “thinking” that the selective catalytic reduction (SCR) control system is functioning correctly, when it is not functioning at all. Operators using these devices do not have to bear the cost of purchasing Adblue fluid or maintaining the complex SCR system on their vehicles. These emulators however allows the lorries to produce unregulated amounts of harmful nitrogen oxides well above the safe level.</p>

For more information, please visit: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/haulier-in-spain-caught-cheating-emission-regulations-designed-to-prevent-air-pollution>

Case 14. France

Title The traffic of toxic waste from Arcelor is suspended and fined
Date 1 April 2019
Type of waste Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value Unknown
Routes France
Enforcement Action The custom officer has been sentenced to 6 months suspended prison sentence and a fine of €6,000. The former director of Sonolub, also retired, was sentenced to 8 months suspended sentence and a fine of €10,000. Sonolub, as a legal entity, was fined €75,000. The three will have to pay customs jointly 1.6 million euros for the TIPP wrongly refunded. Arcelor had not been sued in this case, mainly for a change of company name and prescription problems.

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Fraud, document falsification, export and sell of hazardous waste

Criminal organisation Company + corruption of 1 custom officer

Summary Between 2001 and 2005, a former customs officer falsified documents to declare the naphthalene fuel produced by Arcelor as domestic fuel and facilitate its export. The company Sonolub, based in Normandy, was under contract to recycle the naphthalene fuel. She never received the fuel, but provided bills showing that the product had been processed in her factory. The dangerous product was then resold, and customs unlocked TIPP money to Arcelor.

For more information, please visit: <https://lavdn.lavoixdunord.fr/561457/article/2019-04-01/le-traffic-de-dechets-toxiques-provenant-d-arcelor-se-solde-par-des-peines-avec>

Case 15. Italy

Title Illicit trafficking of e-waste
Date May 2019
Type of waste 950 used solar panels not functioning, declared as used e-waste and other e-waste found in the seized warehouse.

Routes Italy - Burkina Faso / Togo

Quantity/ Value Unknown

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Unknown

Enforcement Action The ecologic operative section of Italian carabinieri and the Customs agency seized the warehouse where the solar panels and a number of other electronic products and batteries were stored. 3 persons, one from Morocco and two from Burkina Faso, have been so far reported for the crime of illicit transboundary shipment of e-waste.

Criminal organisation Organization composed by 3 persons, one from Morocco and two from Burkina Faso

Summary The enforcement action found out the lack of relevant documents to guarantee the actual functionality of solar panels and mis-packaging to avoid damages during the transportation phase. The solar panels derived from casting off of used panels in different Italian regions. Moreover, in the transportation documents a lower number of panels was declared. Two illicit transports of panels to Burkina Faso and Togo were organized.

For more information, please visit: https://www.ilgazzettino.it/nordest/padova/traffico_illecito_di_rifiuti_padova-4477816.html

Case 16. Italy

Title 'Ecomafia' conquering the industrial warehouses in Florence

Date 1 April 2019

Type of waste Waste and residual elements of industrial processes

Quantity/Value Under investigation

Routes At local level, in the region of Tuscany

Type of crimes/ Illicit storage and disposal of waste

Modus

Operandi

Enforcement Preventive action, to detect illicit acts

Action

Criminal Criminal organizations dealing with illicit disposal of waste.

organisation

Summary

Thanks to a collaboration actions between mayors and the prefect in the Tuscany region, an emerging illicit activity has been detected. A number of dismissed industrial warehouses seem to be more and more used by criminal organizations to illegally store and dispose different kind of waste. A monitoring and preventive action is thus ongoing, to avoid these illicit activities and possibly promote the use of these warehouses for activities of social and economic development at local level.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.toscanachiantiambiente.it/lecomafia-alla-conquista-dei-capannoni-industriali-di-firenze/>

Case 17. Italy

Title Illicit trafficking of waste and pollution - Two people arrested in Trapani

Date May 2019

Type of waste Urban solid waste

Quantity/Value Unknown

Routes South Italy

Type of crimes/ Illicit disposal of urban solid waste

Modus

Operandi

Enforcement 2 people arrested; 8 warranty notices; search of the involved company 'Energeticambiente' to acquire the relevant documentation.

Action

Criminal Two managers of the company in charge of waste disposal.

organisation

Summary

In order to reduce the costs for the disposal of urban solid waste, two managers were responsible of systematically spilling liquids from urban waste and illegally disposing

soil coming from the street cleaning process. They were also illegally storing special waste and hazardous and non-hazardous urban waste.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.lastampa.it/2019/05/16/italia/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-e-inquinamento-due-arresti-a-trapani-yppDNxUD3xSqJQRdg46CzM/pagina.html>

Case 18. Greece

Title Dumping of waste
Date May 2019
Type of waste Hazardous and toxic waste
Quantity/Value Huge quantities of car batteries, tyres, metal waste and other hazardous waste collected in 152 sea places

Routes

Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illicit dumping of hazardous and toxic waste in the Mediterranean Sea.

Modus Operandi

Operandi

Criminal

organisation

Summary

The huge quantity of polluting hazardous waste was collected in 2 hours around the Cyclades islands, through an awareness action involving an association of scuba divers un 152 different places.

For more information, please visit: <https://it.euronews.com/2019/05/07/un-mare-di-rifiuti-alle-cicliadi-recuperate-1-5-tonnellate-in-due-ore>

Case 19. Slovenia (Italy – Croatia)

Title Shipments of waste under microscope
Date 5 May 2019
Type of waste Plastic
Quantity/Value 1 vehicle (23.120 kg)
Routes Italy - Croatia
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illegal shipment (RDF declared as plastic waste)

Modus Operandi

Operandi

Enforcement Action Pending, take-back procedure

Action

Criminal organisation Unknown

organisation

Summary

Summary of April joint inspections in Slovenia within SWEAP project. During one joint inspection illegal shipment of RDF found, declared as plastic waste. The case is still pending, take back procedure will follow.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.primorske.si/kronika/posiljke-odpadkov-pod-drobnogledom>

Case 20. Slovenia

Title In recent years several fires in waste management facilities
Date 09 May 2019

Type of waste	Different types of waste
Quantity/Value	Unknown
Routes	Unknown
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Unknown
Criminal organisation	Unknown
Summary	Summary of fires, happened in waste management facilities in Slovenia in past years
For more information, please visit:	https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/v-zadnjih-letih-vec-pozarov-v-predelovalnicah-odpadkov.html

North America

Case 21. United States

Title	Carnival cruise ships are an environmental plague. Maryland must oppose them.
Date	24-04-2019
Type of waste	Illegal dumping of wastes: oil, sewage, refrigerant gas, grey water and food
Quantity/Value	Oil quantity unknown, 500,000 gallons of sewage, thousands of pounds of refrigerants and thousands of gallons of food waste
Routes	Different United States Ports, Alaskan waters
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Dumping of waste
Enforcement Action	A federal judge recently threatened to temporarily ban Carnival cruise ships from docking at U.S. ports. If the judge decides not to carry through with this threat, Maryland should. Carnival Corp. was handed a \$40 million fine and five years of probation in 2016 for seven felony charges related to illegal oil dumping and their subsequent cover-up.
Criminal organisation	Company
Summary	A federal judge recently threatened to temporarily ban Carnival cruise ships from docking at U.S. ports. U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz is expected to decide on whether to temporarily ban the cruise ships from docking in the U.S. after a June hearing. Carnival has a long history of environmental violations, including illegally dumping 500,000 gallons of sewage in a single year and burning unfiltered heavy-fuel oil for 24 hours off the coast of North America in a protected area. In addition to falsifying training and maintenance records, the company has also leaked thousands of pounds of refrigerant gas and dumped grey water and thousands of gallons of food waste. The cruise line also reportedly has a history of striking whales in the Alaskan waters.
For more information, please visit:	https://dbknews.com/2019/04/24/maryland-baltimore-carnival-cruise-ship-environment-policy-oil-dumping-emissions-epa/



WasteForce Crime Alert #3

June 2019- August 2019

Date: 31 August 2019

Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 3

Disclaimer

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The WasteForce project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications and policy updates. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #3 summarizes information that was published between June 2019 and August 2019. While the waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases, this issue is especially focused on the (illegal) trade in plastic. In addition to collecting crime cases, this issue will provide more background information on the plastic issue with several studies and videos on the topic.

The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

9. Introduction
10. Illegal trade and disposal of plastic waste
11. Summary of enforcement operations
12. Analysis on all crime cases
 - Annex I: Publications and legislative/policy updates
 - Annex II: Videos and documentaries
 - Annex III: Cases reported in the news

2. Illegal trade and disposal of plastic waste

Since the ban on the import of plastic waste was implemented in China in 2018, several countries in the Southeast Asia region such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam have become main export destinations of (illegal) plastic waste. Generally, these countries are less equipped to handle these amounts of waste than the countries that export it. In response, action is taken on the national and international level. For example, by the development of new legislation and by taking law enforcement action. In this section several reports will be summarized that describe the issues around plastic waste in more detail, as well as the responses to this issue, including legislative and policy updates, videos and documentaries, recent crime cases and enforcement actions.

Publications

In [Annex I, Reports](#), several reports are summarized that published information on the current plastic trade and disposal. The Guardian (2019) has investigated to where the plastic waste from the United States of America is exported. The United States of America generated 34.5 million tons of plastic each year, while 1 million tons of plastic waste is shipped overseas each

year. The Guardian found that 68,000 shipping containers were exported to countries that mismanage 70% of their own plastic waste. The newest hotspots for handling US plastic recycling are some of the world's poorest countries, including Bangladesh, Laos, Ethiopia and Senegal (see Figure 1). Around 9% of the plastic waste in America was estimated recycled in 2015, of which more than half, 1.6m tons, was handled in China and Hong Kong. As much of the waste was contaminated or was non-recyclable, it had to be landfilled in China. Since the China ban, America's plastic waste has become a global hot potato, ping-ponging from country to country. (The Guardian, 2019)

America sends 1m tons of plastic waste overseas every year.



These are the newest hotspots

Figure 1: Newest hotspots for handling US plastic recycling Bangladesh, Laos, Ethiopia and Senegal, including
Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/17/recycled-plastic-america-global-crisis>

On the website Visual Capitalist, the World's plastic waste flows are mapped. This includes the graphs shown in the report by the Guardian. The website shows that since 1950, humans have created approximately 6,300,000,000 metric tons of plastic waste. To date only 9% of this amount has been recycled and 12% incinerated, leaving 79% in landfills and the environment (Mapping the Flow of the Worlds Plastic Waste). Figure 2 shows an overview of the main plastic exporting and importing countries, before and after the Chinese import ban. (Visual Capitalist, 2019)

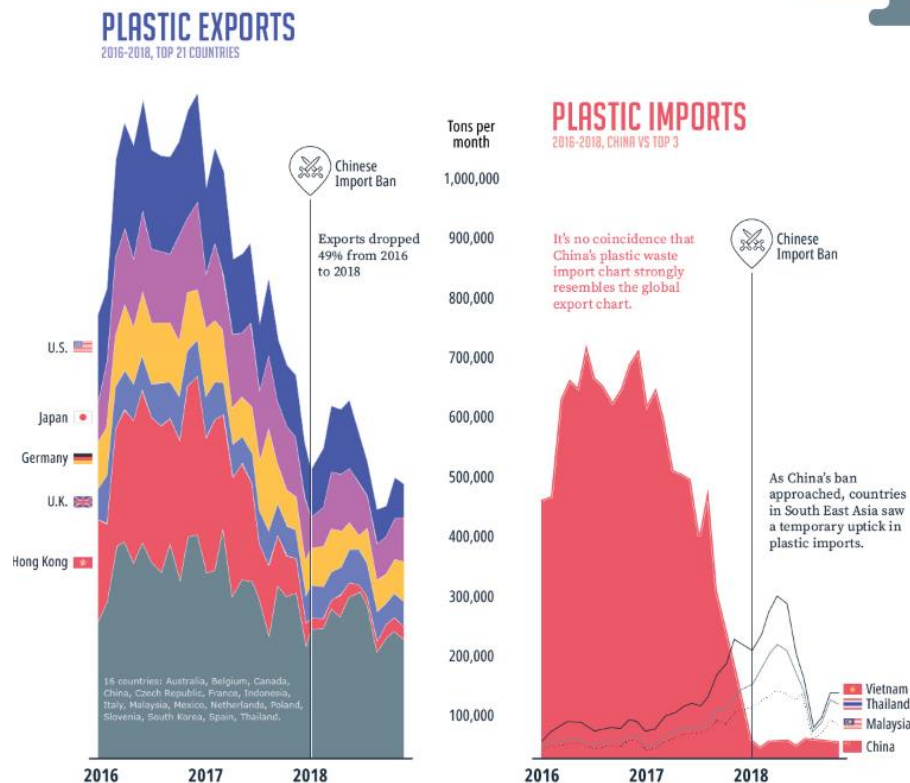


Figure 2: Overview of the main plastic exporting and importing countries, before and after the Chinese import ban. Source: Visual Capitalist, 2019: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapping-the-flow-of-the-worlds-plastic-waste/>

National Geographic (2019) did a study on the crisis of plastic pollution. They provide some key facts on plastic, such as that:

- Half of all plastics ever manufactured have been made in the last 15 years.
- Production increased exponentially, from 2.3 million tons in 1950 to 448 million tons by 2015. Production is expected to double by 2050.
- Every year, about 8 million tons of plastic waste escapes into the oceans from coastal nations. That's the equivalent of setting five garbage bags full of trash on every foot of coastline around the world.
- Plastics often contain additives making them stronger, more flexible, and durable. But many of these additives can extend the life of products if they become litter, with some estimates ranging to at least 400 years to break down.

It is also described how plastic ends up in the ocean, this is flowing from land as well by major rivers. National Geographic (2019).

Finally, last July 2019, the PolyCE consortium published an article dealing with illegal and substandard plastic waste treatment and its possible risks for the consumers. PolyCE is a H2020 project whose expertise mainly lies in the development of advanced recycling and recovery solutions for high quality post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastics. Based on its expertise, the consortium elaborated a set of arguments to counter the idea that black plastics are commonly believed to represent a problem in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

(WEEE) recycling because, allegedly, they are “wrongly sorted” and end up in food-contact applications. However, mainly the lack of knowledge on best practices for plastic waste treatment as well as the illicit treatment and misuses of these substances, are the real reason for the widespread pollution. Efficient and systematic quality verification methods, instead, should become a substantial part of the recycled polymer supply systems.

Legislative updates related to plastic

In the section [Annex I, ‘Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates’](#) several initiatives are described on the national and global level to address the (illegal) export of plastic.

At the international level, 187 member countries of the Basel Convention made a landmark decision to classify non-recyclable mixed plastic as ‘hazardous waste’ – restricting their flow across national borders. This will help to ensure that the poor countries do not become dumping grounds of this non-recyclable mixed plastic. Additionally, during the last session of the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) (COP-14, 29 April–10 May 2019), there was strong engagement with the “Break Free From Plastic Movement” (BFFP), who issued positions, statements and letters of support for the proposed changes. The World Customs Organisation was present as well, to strengthen cooperation and discuss the use of the Harmonised System (HS) to address social and environmental issues.

At the national level, the prime minister of Australia pledged to ban the export of recyclable plastic. Last year Australia exported 4.5 million tonnes of waste, mostly going to Vietnam, Indonesia and China. The Australian state ministers are developing a timeline to improve the national recycling system, in order to implement the ban ‘as soon as practicable’.

Crime Cases

In [Annex III, ‘Cases reported in the news’](#), a summary can be found of seven news cases involving the illegal transboundary movements of plastic. The cases involve illegal exports from the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. There are also two cases of illegal plastic export within Europe (from the United Kingdom to Poland and from Italy to Croatia) and one case is about an illegal plastic export within the Asian region (from Bangladesh to Malaysia). In two of the cases the plastic was mislabeled as recycled or recyclable products. In four of these cases a take back procedure of the waste is ongoing. The waste is usually exported by companies, and in one case there was involvement of so-called ‘waste mafia’. The quantities of plastic include 25 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes exported by one company over a period of time.

Video’s/Documentaries

Finally, the link to five video’s/documentaries about plastic are included in this WCA. The first is a video compilation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 2019 Conference of the Parties, during which the illegal trade in plastic waste was high on the agenda. The second video is called “Plastic Waste - A World Problem”, and it shows that since the rise of the plastic industry in the mid 1950s plastic has become a major concern. In the third video by the BBC an illegal recycling plant in Malaysia is visited. As included in an article in the previous WasteForce WCA, a number of these plants have been shut down recently in Malaysia. The

video shows how large piles of abandoned plastic are left at the plant, particles of which are contaminating nearby water courses. The fourth video “Dumping plastic waste on others” also discusses the export of plastic waste to Southeast Asian countries that are not equipped to handle plastic waste. The last video, from France 24, is also about the export of plastic waste to South-East Asia.

3. Summary of Enforcement Operations

Operation Green Earth March-April 2019

Building on previous global operations led by the World Customs Organization (WCO) on monitoring and control of illicit trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste, Korea Customs Service (KCS) and China Customs jointly propose a regional enforcement operation to target illicit trans-boundary movement of waste and to help with implementation of relevant MEAs. Under the codename “Operation Green Earth”, this operation was coordinated by the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO AP). It focused on illegal shipments of hazardous waste and other waste by all routes (air, sea, land borders) and all the WCO member administrations in Asia and the Pacific were invited to participate and encouraged to cooperate and share information between countries. The intensive operational phase commenced on 25th March 2019 and lasted for a period of 8 weeks.

Operation Green Earth involved 17 participating administrations (Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Honk Kong China, India, Japan, Korea, Macau China, Maldives, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam). The participating administrations reported a total of 104 seizures cases during the operation (Korea: 30; China: 21; Hong Kong China: 21; Sri Lanka: 13; Thailand: 10; Malaysia: 5; Vietnam: 4). 81 cases were intercepted at entry point, 19 cases at exit points and 4 cases in transit and the vast majority involved transport by sea (96 cases). Plastic waste represented the majority in cases (45 cases) and quantities (more than 68,000,000kg), followed by e-waste, municipal waste, slag and metal waste, paper waste, rubber waste and other waste.

4. Analysis of all news cases ([Annex II](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between June 2019 and August 2019. In total, 18 cases were found, of which an overview can also be found in Annex III.

**Global map with the listed news cases, the colors are linked to the type of waste.
For more information follow this [Link](#).**



Types of waste, quantities and routes

Between June and August 2019, 18 cases were reported involving the illegal trade in waste and one case involved the export of materials from an illegal e-waste dismantling factory. In seven cases plastic was illegally exported. The quantities of this illegal plastic export ranged from a truck with 24.4 tonnes going from Italy to Croatia, to 12,000 tonnes suspected to be shipped over a period of time between the Netherlands and Africa/Asia. In 4 cases hazardous waste was illegally exported, including 1 shipment of around 125 tonnes and 2 cases with shipments of around 180 tonnes. In the cases of mixed waste and other wastes, 10,000 tonnes of unspecified waste, 57,000 tonnes of illicit compost waste and 5,177 of mixed plastic and hazardous waste were exported. Another 23 tonnes of metal waste were exported from Italy to Slovenia. Table 1 shows are the types of waste and routes reported in the different cases.

Types of waste reported	Cases and Routes
E-waste	Case 1. Nigeria > China
	Case 18. United Kingdom > Nigeria
Plastic	Case 2. United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Britain > Malaysia
	Case 3. United States, Canada > Cambodia
	Case 9. United Kingdom > Poland
	Case 6. Bangladesh > Malaysia
	Case 17. The Netherlands > Africa/Asia
	Case 15. Italy > Croatia

Hazardous (household) waste	Case 4. North America, Europe > Indonesia
	Case 10. United Kingdom > China
	Case 5. United Kingdom > Sri Lanka
	Case 4. United States, Canada > Indonesia
Textile waste	Case 13. Italy
Metal waste	Case 14. Slovenia
Mixed / other	Case 11. Italy
	Case 12. Italy
	Case 8. > China
ELV Ship	Case 7. South Korea - Philippines
	Case 16. Germany > Netherlands

Table 3: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Modus operandi

All cases involved the illegal export of waste or materials. The modus operandi was only provided in a few cases. In 3 of the 18 cases the waste export was mislabeled: (contaminated) plastic waste was labeled as 'recycled or recyclable products' bio and clinical waste, was labeled as 'used mattresses. In one case the illegal waste was also hidden behind legal waste in the shipment container. Another case was about an illegal e-waste dismantling factor in Nigeria, from which only the materials were shipped to China and Vietnam. In case 18 an illicit recycling company made claims over the recycling of over 19.500 tonnes of e-waste in 2011. In reality the company never handled the amount of waste described and was not entitled to receive money through the government backed Producer Compliance Scheme.

Criminal organisations

In 12 of the 18 cases, companies were involved, of which in four of the cases there was involvement of companies in China. In case 9, the media reported the involvement of 'waste mafia' and three criminal gangs and in case 13 a criminal group was mentioned, but this group was mainly made up of entrepreneurs.

Enforcement action

In 8 of the 18 cases a take back procedure was requested or implemented. In 3 cases it was reported arrests were made. Also, two Italian enforcement operations were done in Italy, operation 'smoking fields' and operation Prato Waste. In case 18 the waste criminal received a record custodial sentence of 16 years.

Annex I Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title	Top European Court Expands WEEE Definition: Certain Defective Equipment May Be Included
Organisation	The European Court of Justice
Date	04 July 2019
Type of Waste	E-waste
Summary	In a decision dated 4 July 2019, the European Court of Justice (“ECJ”) ruled that the definition of waste electrical and electronic equipment (“WEEE”) under the WEEE Directive may include defective products “that require repair, such that [the equipment] cannot be used for its original purpose”. The WEEE Directive requires Member States to appropriately enforce the collection, recycling and waste management of computers, televisions, cell phones, refrigerators, and other types of electronic waste at the end of their life cycle. Hong Kong traders that deal in used electrical goods may be affected by this new ruling. The Court’s decision comes about pursuant to a case brought before it on WEEE shipments being made out of the EU. In consequence, the case may have ramifications for traders shipping WEEE to, within or outside the EU.
Links	https://www.bailii.org/eu/cases/EUECJ/2019/C62417.html https://hkmb.hktdc.com/en/1X0AHZLI/hktdc-research/Top-European-Court-Expands-WEEE-Definition-Certain-Defective-Equipment-May-Be-Included
Title	Consigning the export of plastic waste to the dustbin of history
Organisation	Basel Convention
Date	15 May 2019
Type of Waste	Plastic
Summary	A landmark decision by 187 countries will see non-recyclable mixed plastics classified as ‘hazardous waste’ — restricting their flow across national borders. This will help ensure that poor countries do not become dumping grounds for the rich and boost waste reduction efforts and recycling closer to source, experts said.
Link	https://meta.eeb.org/2019/05/15/consigning-the-export-of-plastic-waste-to-the-dustbin-of-history/ , http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=8005
Title	Plastics at the BRS COPs 2019, Consigning the export of plastic waste to the dustbin of history
Organisation	The Basel and Stockholm Conventions
Date	May 2019
Summary	Many countries are taking steps to mitigate plastic pollution, recognizing it as a serious and rapidly growing issue of concern worldwide that needs an urgent global response. The Basel and Stockholm Conventions have a direct impact on the plastic waste trade, on standards for the management of plastic waste, and on the toxic exposure inherent in the plastic pollution crisis for large and microscopic plastics on the land and in the marine environment. The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) had invited the Basel Convention “to increase

their action to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics and their harmful effects,” and the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Convention (BRS) Secretariat has participated in and presented at UNEA’s Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

In 2018, Norway proposed amendments to the Basel Convention annexes to bring the global trade in dirty, hard-to-recycle, or unrecyclable plastics under the scope of the Convention. Several members and partners of the #breakfreefromplastic (BFFP) movement issued positions, statements, and letters of support for the proposed changes and attended the concurrent meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS Conventions (BRS COP). The BFFP member and partner engagement at these meetings is in concert with the ongoing work to support development of an international legally binding agreement on plastics and plastic pollution to address the entire life cycle of plastics, including: binding global reduction targets; caps on production and consumption of plastics; and requirements for loss prevention, collection, and recycling of all plastics.

Link <https://meta.eeb.org/2019/05/15/consigning-the-export-of-plastic-waste-to-the-dustbin-of-history/> , <http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=8005>

Title **Collaboration with the WCO highlighted at the BRS Conference in Geneva**
Organisation WCO, Basel Convention
Date 29 June 2019
Type of Waste E-waste
Summary The cooperation between the WCO and the BRS Conference Secretariats in using the Harmonized System (HS) to address environmental and social issues. Among the important tools discussed and adopted by the Council was the 2022 version of the Harmonized System. Some notable amendments are new headings or defining electronic waste (e-waste) and various gases with high global warming potential.

Link <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/june/wco-council-maps-the-road-ahead-during-its-annual-sessions.aspx>,
<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/collaboration-with-the-wco-highlighted-at-the-brs-conference-in-geneva.aspx>

Title **Prime minister Australia pledges to ban the export of recyclable plastic**
Organisation Australian Government
Date 13 August 2019
Type of Waste Plastic
Summary Australia will ban export of recyclable waste 'as soon as practicable', PM vows. State environment ministers will consult industry to develop a timeline to improve the recycling system. The prime minister has vowed to do more to tackle plastic waste in the world’s oceans, saying the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres will be banned. Scott Morrison said only about 12% of materials are properly recycled in Australia and he wanted that to change. With state and territory leaders, he has laid out a plan for environment ministers to improve the recycling system. “There will be no export of plastics and paper and glass to other countries where it runs the risk of floating around in our oceans,” he said in Cairns after a Council of Australian Governments (Coag) meeting on Friday. We’ve got to start

thinking about what we do when that happens. I would like that date to be as soon as is practicable.” Last year it cost Australia \$2.8bn to export nearly 4.5m tonnes of waste, with most going to Vietnam, Indonesia and China.

Link

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/14/how-will-a-domestic-waste-recycling-industry-work-in-australia>,
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/09/australia-to-ban-export-of-recyclable-waste-as-soon-as-practicable-pm-vows>

Reports**Title**

Where does your plastic go? Global investigation reveals America's dirty secret.

Organisation

The Guardian

Date

17 June 2019

Type of Waste

Plastic

Summary

A Guardian report from 11 countries tracks how US waste makes its way across the world – and overwhelms the poorest nations. A team of Guardian reporters in 11 countries has found: Last year, the equivalent of 68,000 shipping containers of American plastic recycling were exported from the US to developing countries that mismanage more than 70% of their own plastic waste. The newest hotspots for handling US plastic recycling are some of the world’s poorest countries, including Bangladesh, Laos, Ethiopia and Senegal, offering cheap labor and limited environmental regulation.

In some places, like Turkey, a surge in foreign waste shipments is disrupting efforts to handle locally generated plastics.

With these nations overwhelmed, thousands of tons of waste plastic are stranded at home in the US, as we reveal in our story later this week

Link

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/17/recycled-plastic-america-global-crisis>

Title

Ecomafia 2019

Organisation

Legambiente

Date

4 July 2019

Type of Waste

Waste Crime + Environmental Crime

Summary

According to the yearly report published by Legambiente, in 2018 there has been a huge increase in the crimes related to the agro-food and construction sector, but also in the waste sector. The overall business of the so-called 'ecomafie' is estimated at 16.6 billions of euro - with more than 360 criminal groups involved. Specifically, regarding the illicit trafficking and management of waste, there have been about 22 illicit acts per day, - which means around 8 thousand in 2018.

Link

<https://www.legambiente.it/ecomafia-2019-le-storie-e-i-numeri-della-criminalita-ambientale-in-italia/>

Title	Illegal and Sub-Standard Plastic Waste Treatment: When Recycled Plastics May Be Harmful for Consumers — and Why Black Plastics Are Unjustly Blamed
Organisation	PolyCE Consortium
Date	25 July 2019
Type of Waste	Plastic
Summary	Last July 2019, the PolyCE consortium published an article dealing with illegal and substandard plastic waste treatment and its possible risks for the consumers. PolyCE is a H2020 project whose expertise mainly lies in the development of advanced recycling and recovery solutions for high quality post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastics. Based on its expertise, the consortium elaborated a set of arguments to counter the idea that black plastics are commonly believed to represent a problem in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling because, allegedly, they are “wrongly sorted” and end up in food-contact applications. However, mainly the lack of knowledge on best practices for plastic waste treatment as well as the illicit treatment and misuses of these substances, are the real reason for the widespread pollution. Efficient and systematic quality verification methods, instead, should become a substantial part of the recycled polymer supply systems.
Link	https://medium.com/@PolyCE_EU/illegal-and-sub-standard-plastic-waste-treatment-when-recycled-plastics-may-be-harmful-for-bb42d02c51c9
Title	Mapping the Flow of the World's Plastic Waste
Organisation	Visual Capitalist, Iman Gosh
Date	03 July 2019
Type of Waste	Plastic
Summary	A visualisation of the top plastic export and import flows.
Link	https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapping-the-flow-of-the-worlds-plastic-waste/
Title	The world's plastic pollution crisis explained
Organisation	National Geographic
Type of Waste	Plastic
Date	07 June 2019
Summary	The world's plastic pollution crisis explained. Much of the planet is swimming in discarded plastic, which is harming animal and possibly human health. This article aims to answer the question if it can be cleaned up.
Link	https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/plastic-pollution/

Annex II Videos and documentaries

Title	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 2019 COPs
Organisation	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
Date	May 2019
Summary	Video of the 2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions COPS
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftH-NEB0FkU&feature=youtu.be
Title	Plastic Waste - A World Problem
Organisation	SafePlanet
Date	16 May 2019
Summary	Marine plastic litter has been a growing concern since the rise of the plastic industry in the mid-1950s. Global plastic production has increased steadily and has reached 320 million tonnes a year. Of the estimated 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced since the 1950s, only 9% has been recycled and another 12% incinerated. The greatest burden of plastic waste entering the sea is likely to arise where waste collection systems are ineffective or even non-existent. Waterborne plastic poses a serious threat to fish, seabirds, marine reptiles, and marine mammals, as well as to boats and coasts. is an environmental problem occurring on a global scale today. Developing countries in particular may face challenges in managing the rapidly growing volume of plastic waste.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=JV73HchPgmc
Title	Hugh visits an illegal plastic recycling plant in Malaysia
Organisation	BBC
Date	5 June 2019
Summary	At a recently closed recycling plant, Hugh and CK find vast piles of abandoned plastics, particles of which are also contaminating nearby water courses.
Link	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07c90ff
Title	Dumping plastic waste on others
Organisation	DW / Reuters
Date	03 July 2019
Summary	Globally, only a small fraction of plastic waste is recycled. Mountains of it, also from wealthy countries whose waste management systems are not keeping up with the production of plastics, pile up in Southeast Asian countries far less equipped to handle plastic waste.
Link	https://www.dw.com/en/dumping-plastic-waste-on-others/av-49451092
Title	Ecomafie 2019
Organisation	Legambiente
Date	7-8-2019
Summary	This video in Italian provides a summary of the main results included in the report published by Legambiente 'Ecomafie 2019'.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHre5C1SrA8

- Title** **Breathless**
Organisation Documentary by individual filmmaker Daniel Lambo
Date 24 June 2018
Summary Following the deaths of his father and many others from his village, filmmaker Daniel Lambo sets off on a passionate quest to find the truth about the deadly asbestos industry. His search takes him to the largest asbestos waste dump in India and unveils a cold-blooded industry still endangering the lives of workers and consumers around the world. A gripping story on the fight of individuals against a booming asbestos industry.
Link <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9266874/>
- Title** **The Electronic Waste Challenge: A Global Perspective**
Organisation GIZ, BMZ, UNU SCYCLE
Date 12 August 2019
Summary Growing electronic waste (e-waste or WEEE) volumes from consumers are a challenge for low and middle income countries. Informal recycling of valuable and hazardous components creates an income opportunity for the poor, but poses major health and environmental risks and also reduces resource efficiency. Illegal e-waste exports make this problem worse, particularly where there are no environmentally sound recycling facilities in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Informal collection can be supported by trainings, formal e-waste management businesses, and legislation like extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws, leading to a more sustainable circular economy.
Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sY9hLOmQBUo>
- Title** **Recyclage: après l'Asie du Sud-Est, où vont aller nos déchets ? (Recycling: after South-East Asia, where will our waste go?)**
Organisation France24
Date 23 August 2019
Summary After the plastic and paper ban decided by China, exporting countries have turned to other markets like Malaysia and Vietnam. But this situation did not last long and the countries of South-East Asia were quick to close their borders, some even returning containers filled with waste in their country of origin. What will be the next destination for our waste? Will the developed countries be able to cope with the lack of opportunities?
Link <https://www.france24.com/fr/20190823-recyclage-dechets-plastique-chine-asie-sud-est-poubelle-papier>

Africa

Case 1. Nigeria

Title	Police uncovers Chinese toxic waste factory in Lagos.
Date	6-8-2019
Type of waste	E-waste
Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	Nigeria - China
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal (toxic) factory and exports of materials
Enforcement Action	Two arrests.
Criminal organisation	A company in Nigeria owned by two Chinese nationals.
Summary	The Lagos State Police command uncovered a factory where e-waste is assembled and exported to China and Vietnam. Detectives also arrested two brains behind the e-waste company. One of the suspects, Lin said: "We buy phone panels (Android and Nokia panels). We buy them from phone repairers and scrap sellers. We remove the panel I.C. with a machine and then ship it to China and Vietnam.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/28/plastic-waste-from-bangladesh-found-shipped-into-malaysia/

Annex III Cases reported in the news

Asia

Case 2. Malaysia

Title	Malaysia to send 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste back to countries of origin
Date	28 May 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	3,000 tonnes
Routes	The USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Britain - Malaysia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal waste shipment
Enforcement action	Take back procedure
Criminal organisation	Company involvement
Summary	Malaysia will send as much as 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste back to the countries it came from, the environment minister said on Tuesday, the latest Asian country to reject rich countries' rubbish.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-waste/malaysia-to-send-3000-tonnes-of-plastic-waste-

Case 3. Cambodia

Title	Cambodia probes Chinese firm over illegal waste imports
Date	21 July 2010
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	1600 tonnes, waste was discovered in 83 shipping containers
Routes	United States and Canada - Cambodia. The containers were discovered in the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The containers had been mislabelled as "recycled products".
Enforcement Action	Take back procedure.
Criminal organisation	Involvement of a Chinese company.
Summary	Cambodia is investigating a locally-based Chinese firm for illegally importing around 1,600 tonnes of plastic waste from the United States and Canada, the Southeast Asian country's customs chief told Reuters on Friday. Kun Nhim, director-general of Cambodia's General Department of Customs and Excise, told Reuters that a Chinese firm based in Cambodia had imported the waste, which was discovered this week in 83 shipping containers at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cambodia-waste/cambodia-probes-chinese-firm-over-illegal-waste-imports-idUSKCN1UE0PH

Case 4. Indonesia

Title	Indonesia returns five containers of trash to US, examines 65 others
Date	14 June 2019
Type of waste	Hazardous household waste and plastic waste
Quantity/Value	5 containers hazardous household waste and 65 containers of plastic scraps
Routes	US-Canada-Indonesia (household waste) and North America and Europe to Indonesia (plastic scraps)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Take back of 5 containers
Criminal organisation	Four companies imported the plastic scrap into Indonesia
Summary	The Environment and Forestry Ministry reported on Friday that it had returned five containers of trash to the United States after finding that the containers that were supposed to contain only clean paper scraps also contained diapers, plastic scraps, wood, fabrics and shoes in "significant amounts". (...) Also on Friday, Batam Customs and Excise Office and Environment and Forestry Ministry officials oversaw the unloading of 65 containers that contained plastic trash from North America and Europe at Batu Ampar Port in Batam, Riau Islands.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/06/14/ri-returns-five-containers-of-trash-to-us-examines-65-others.html , https://www.nouvelobs.com/monde/20190616.OBS14457/l-indonesie-

[renvoie-cinq-conteneurs-de-dechets-aux-etats-unis.html#Echobox=1560675042](https://www.balebid.com/forum/post/some-of-the-hazardous-waste-shipped-from-the-uk-to/963?page=1)

Case 5. Sri Lanka

Title	Some Of The Hazardous Waste Shipped From The UK To Sri Lanka Was Offloaded To Dubai And India
Date	29 July 2019
Type of waste	Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	180 tonnes, 241 shipping containers
Routes	UK-Sri Lanka, and via Sri Lanka to India and Dubai.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The waste had been mislabelled and imported as 'used mattresses', upon investigation they discovered bio and clinical waste.
Enforcement Action	The investigation is ongoing.
Criminal organisation	Ceylon Metal Processing Corporation Pvt Ltd is the firm at the centre of the investigation.
Summary	An investigation carried out by Sri Lankan authorities into almost 3,000 tonnes of illegally imported hazardous waste has revealed that a share of it was sent on to Dubai and India. Finance Minister, Mangala Samaraweera, informed parliament on Friday that the importer of the waste had shipped around 180 tonnes of raw waste to India and Dubai in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The customs department discovered how a local company had imported 241 shipping containers from the UK, 15 of which had been reshipped to India and 2 to Dubai.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.balebid.com/forum/post/some-of-the-hazardous-waste-shipped-from-the-uk-to/963?page=1 https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49100887

Case 6. Bangladesh

Title	Plastic waste from Bangladesh found shipped into Malaysia
Date	28 May 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	10 containers, 450 tonnes and inspection into another 50 containers is ongoing.
Routes	Bangladesh- Malaysia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export: the waste smuggled in was falsely declared as recyclable, the illegal waste was placed behind legal waste.
Enforcement action	Take back procedure.
Criminal organisation	UK companies and a number of Chinese companies relocating their operations to Malaysia, with some setting up shop here as soon as the Chinese government announced the ban in 2017.
Summary	Plastic waste from Bangladesh has been found to be shipped into Malaysia, as a container of waste was among nine opened and displayed to the media at Westport on Tuesday.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/28/plastic-waste-from-bangladesh-found-shipped-into-malaysia/>

Case 7. Philippines

Title	Take back your garbage from Mindanao, South Korea urged.
Date	02 August 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste, hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	5,177 tons
Routes	South Korea-Philippines
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement action	Requested take back procedure
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Environmental group EcoWaste Coalition has strongly called on the South Korean government to act on the 5,177 tons of illegal waste exports from the Philippines.

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/08/02/take-back-your-garbage-from-mindanao-south-korea-urged/>
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1141631/boc-team-vs-foreign-trash-backed>

Case 8. China

Title	Chinese customs returns imported solid waste
Date	29-8-2019
Type of waste	Lead sludge from lead-acid batteries and slags
Quantity/Value	152.6 tonnes
Routes	Origin unknown - China
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import
Enforcement action	Take back procedure
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Yantai customs in east China's Shandong Province has shipped back a batch of solid waste imported from overseas to where it originated, according to the General Administration of Customs. Seized during inspection last year, the 152.6-tonnes of garbage consisted of lead sludge from recycled lead-acid batteries and slags produced in metal smelting, which are banned from import in China.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/14/c_138225605.htm

Europe

Case 9. Poland

Title	Poland won't take UK garbage any more
Date	25 July 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	The UK annually sends to Poland 12,000 tonnes of recyclable plastic. In April, investigators revealed 2,452 tons of illegally stored waste, the disposal cost of which they said could amount to almost 8 million zlotys (€1.9 million, \$2.2 million).
Routes	UK-Poland
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import and disposal of waste
Enforcement action	15 people arrested in April
Criminal organisation Summary	'Involvement of 'waste mafia' and of three criminal gang, so far 47 people have been charged as part of the investigations, and 28 of them are still in custody. Racing to meet an EU recycling target, the waste market in Poland is booming. But Warsaw is increasingly fed up with illegally imported foreign waste, much of it from the UK. After China called a halt in 2018, Poland soon became the sixth largest recipient of UK waste in the world and the second largest inside the EU, behind the Netherlands.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.dw.com/en/poland-wont-take-uk-garbage-any-more/a-49725035

Case 10. United Kingdom

Title	Biffa found guilty in China MRF export case
Date	20 June 2019
Type of waste	Contaminated paper and household waste
Quantity/Value	7 containers (25 tonnes each), prices were 350,000 pounds for 5863 tonnes of mixed paper and 290,000 pounds for a shipment of 4992 tonnes.
Routes	UK-China
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Sentence is deferred until September 2019
Criminal organisation Summary	Large scale company One of the UK's biggest waste firms has been convicted of sending used nappies and other contaminated materials to China illegally. Biffa Waste Services Ltd was found guilty of exporting unsorted household waste that it said was paper. The company was prosecuted by the Environment Agency after investigators stopped seven 25-tonne containers from leaving Felixstowe in Suffolk over suspicions about the content.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/25/uk-waste-firm-exported-offensive-materials-including-used-nappies,

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/biffa-found-guilty-in-china-mrf-export-case/>

Case 11. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste and storage in the area of Brescia
Date	5 June 2019
Type of waste	General waste
Quantity/Value	10,000 tons, value of trafficking 1 million euro
Routes	from South (mainly Campania region) to North of Italy (mainly Lombardia and Veneto regions)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	In the organized criminal structure, the producers were selling waste to companies formally authorized to their treatment, but actually operating illegally. These companies acquired, through intermediaries, industrial warehouses where they stored the waste without any authorization and with risks for the human health and the environment. The transport of waste was assigned to workers with extra-EU citizenship, with no legal contract and very low salaries.
Enforcement Action	20 people arrested and seizure of 7 dumping sites worth 400k euro
Criminal organisation	The company Winsystemp Group acted as intermediary in the illicit management of waste, illegally stocked in warehouses in the northern regions in Italy
Summary	A criminal organization disrupted by the Italian Carabinieri was responsible for organizing an illicit trafficking of domestic waste from the south to the north of Italy, where the waste was stocked in illicit dumping areas, also through the support of an intermediary company. The investigation started from a previous one, linked to the fire to a waste storage in Milan.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.bresciaoggi.it/territori/città/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-depositi-nel-bresciano-1.7378460 ; https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/04/rifiuti-20-arresti-per-traffico-illecito-in-sei-regioni-il-gip-di-milano-nei-capannoni-nessuna-precauzione-per-salute/5232068/

Case 12. Italy

Title	Waste trafficking in Rome - illicit compost buried in the fields. Irreparable damages for the environment and the public health
Date	13 June 2019
Type of waste	Illicit compost (waste)
Quantity/Value	57,000 tons of special waste illegally dumped in 4 years
Routes	Region of Lazio
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illicit trafficking of waste, provision of fake certificates, illicit dumping, obstacle to environmental control activities
Enforcement Action	Operation Smoking Fields. 3 companies, 10 vehicles, 1 dumping site and bank accounts for more than one million euro seized - as the illicit profit of waste trafficking.
Criminal organisation	The owners of the group SEP (ecologic society Pontina) created a fake compost, certified by illicit lab controls, actually mixed with different types of waste, including glass, plastic and metals. They paid the owners of neighbour lands to bury and hide the waste by polluting the land where they cultivated olives and corn. A manager from the Region of Lazio was also involved.

Summary The ecologic society SEP, in charge of developing compost from urban waste, was instead developing illicit compost by mixing other materials (plastic, metal, glass) and selling them to fields' owners. They were actually aware of the illicit nature of the compost, and due to the waste smell, they were paid to bury the fake compost into deeper parts of the fields, then used to cultivate corn and olives, and thus creating huge risks for the environment and the human health.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/14/traffico-rifiuti-latina-roma-compost-irregolare-interrato-nei-campi-danni-irrimediabili-per-ambiente-e-salute-pubblica/5253922/> ; <https://www.sabaudiainforma.it/cronaca/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-indagine-partita-da-pontinia/>

Case 13. Italy

Title Chinese made in Prato-Pistoia. Illicit trafficking of waste, Italians were also involved

Date 7 August 2019

Type of waste Waste from textile products

Quantity/ Value Not available, due to the difficulty to estimate the presence of Chinese people in the region, they manage almost entirely the textile sector in the area of Prato

Routes From Tuscany region to other regions in the North of the country and probably to African countries (not specified)

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illicit transportation and storage of waste from textile production

Enforcement Action Operation Prato Waste. Precautionary custody order for 6 entrepreneurs (4 Italians and 2 Chinese) + 10 owners of fake companies both Chinese and Italian.

Criminal organisation Criminal group mainly made by entrepreneurs of Italian and Chinese origin.

Summary Transportation of waste was made by people not authorized, with fake certificates to avoid controls. Waste, instead of being treated, was stocked and abandoned in warehouses mainly in the north of Italy. The owners of the storages were usually not aware, while the transporters disappeared after stocking.

For more information, please visit: http://www.affaritaliani.it/cronache/cinesi-made-in-prato-pistoia-traffico-illecito-rifiuti-ci-sono-anche-italiani-619921.html?refresh_ce

Case 14. Slovenia

Title Metal Scrap from Italy to Slovenia

Date 16 May 2019

Type of waste Metal waste

Quantity/Value 1 truck, 23 tonnes

Routes Italy – Slovenia

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi illegal waste shipment

Enforcement Action Take back

Criminal organisation N.A.

Summary During the documentary and physical inspection of the shipment of scrap metal and metal alloys from Italy to Slovenia revealed that it was actually mixed waste (including bulky waste from ferrous metals, metal waste with pieces of plastic and pieces of wood).

For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.si/novice/2019-07-03-vecje-stevilo-nakljucnih-akcij-nadzora-cezmejnega-posiljanja-odpadkov-na-avtocestnih-pocivaliscih-mejnih-prehodih-ter-v-luki-koper-2/>

Case 15. Slovenia

Title Plastic waste from Italy to Croatia

Date 12 June 2019

Type of waste Plastic Waste

Quantity/ Value 1 truck, 25,4 tonnes

Routes Italy - Croatia

Type of crimes/ Illegal waste shipment

Modus Operandi

Enforcement Take back

Action

Criminal N.A.

organisation

Summary The shipment of the waste mixture (declared as waste plastic and rubber on the documentation) from Italy to Croatia was recognized as an illegal shipment as no consent was obtained which would have to be obtained for such shipment.

For more information, please visit: <HTTPS://WWW.GOV.SI/NOVICE/2019-07-03-VECJE-STEVILO-NAKLJUCNIH-AKCIJ-NADZORA-CEZMEJNEGA-POSILJANJA-ODPADKOV-NA-AVTOCESTNIH-POCIVALISCIH-MEJNIH-PREHODIH-TER-V-LUKI-KOPER-2/>

Case 16. Germany

Title Illegal transfer of an end-of-life ship

Date 28 June 2019

Type of Waste Mixed hazardous and non-hazardous waste

Routes Germany -Netherlands

Quantity/ Value One ship

Type of crimes/

Modus Operandi

Criminal N.A.

organisation

Enforcement Fined €5000

action

Summary Transfer of a ship from Germany into the Netherlands that should have been declared a waste in violation with the Waste Shipment regulation (EC No 1013/2006). Illegal movements complicate the control of waste movements into the Netherlands by Dutch authorities. Rules are drawn up to protect environmental quality and public health. These goals have been undermined by the suspects behaviour. In determining the seriousness of the fact, the court considers it important that there are no indications that the authorities would not have authorized the transfer if they had been informed. Nor has it been found that environmental regulations were not complied with in the actual demolition of

the ship. The court has taken these circumstances into account in determining the penalty in favor of the suspect. The court has imposed a totally conditional fine of € 5,000.

For more information, please visit:

<http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:RBAMS:2019:4531>

Case 17. The Netherlands

Title	The public prosecution service suspects illegal export of 12 million kilograms of waste.
Date	21 August 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste and other types
Quantity/Value	12 million kg
Routes	The Netherlands - Africa, Asia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Criminal organisation	One suspect and his company.
Enforcement	The investigation is ongoing.
Action	
Summary	The Dutch public prosecution service suspects the illegal export of 12 million kilograms of waste to countries in Asia and Africa. The inspectorate searched two houses and the administration of a company in Venlo. The suspect did not have a permit.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.nu.nl/binnenland/5981397/om-verdenkt-man-van-illegaal-exporteren-van-12-miljoen-kilo-afval.html

Case 18. The United Kingdom

Title	Convicted waste fraudster has more than 9 years added to jail time for failing to repay £1.3 million in ill-gotten gains.
Date	27 August 2019
Type of waste	E-waste
Quantity/Value	£2.2 million was acquired through illegal activity
Routes	Previous convictions were for export from the United Kingdom to Nigeria.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegitimate claims were made over the recycling of over 19.500 tonnes of e-waste in 2011. In reality the company never handled the amount of waste described and was not entitled to receive money through the government backed Producer Compliance Scheme. The company also claimed money for waste collections from streets and properties that did not exist and vehicles used to transfer waste were recorded being in different regions on the same day, some vehicles did not exist at all.
Criminal organisation	Company owned by a 48 year old man from Leeds.
Enforcement	
Action	The company owner (Terry Soloman Dugbo), is currently serving a record 7 years and 6 months custodial sentence. He was ordered to pay back more than 1.3 million on top over a 79,000 fine from a previous prosecution of illegal hazardous

waste export. As he failed to make any payments, the court sentenced him to prison for a further 8 year and 14 months for the older order and 2 months related to fraud. This adds up to a record sentence of 16 years.

Summary

A convicted waste criminal has had an additional 9 years and 4 months added to his current 7 and a half year fraud sentence. The defendant will now serve a total of 16 years.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/convicted-waste-fraudster-has-more-than-9-years-added-to-jail-time-for-failing-to-repay-1-3-million-in-ill-gotten-gains>



WasteForce Crime Alert #4

September- November 2019

Date: 30 November 2019

Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



The WasteForce project is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP/2017/AG/ENV/821345)

WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 4

Disclaimer

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The Waste Force project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications, policy updates and relevant videos and documentaries. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #4 summarises information that was published between September 2019 and November 2019. The waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

13. Introduction
14. Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
15. Summary of News cases published, see also the overview in Annex II
16. Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III
17. Summary of Media, see also the overview in Annex IV

2. Summary of new publications and legislative and governance updates. ([Annex I](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of recent publications, highlighting important trafficking routes, hot spots, modus operandi and so on. A summary and references to each publication can also be found in Annex I.

Legislation and governance

This WCA includes four articles about new legislations and amendments. Two articles are national policy updates, this includes that India planned to impose a nationwide ban on single-use plastics: bags, cups and straws from 2 October onwards and that the United Kingdom banned F gas for refilling equipment from 2020 onwards. With regards to European legislation, the European Commission adopted new eco-design measures for products such as refrigerators and washing machines that help with reparability and recyclability. Finally, news with regards to global legislation is that the Basel Convention Ban Amendment will enter into force 5 December, which will prohibit the export of hazardous waste from developed countries (OECD, EU member States, Liechtenstein) to developing countries.

Reports, articles and books

new reports that were published the past three months are included. The first is a report by SDG Watch on sustainability in Europe and the impacts of EU policies and practices in the world. A second report published by an Indonesian NGO called Nexus3 together with the Basel Action Network gives the results of an investigation demonstrating that the Indonesian government is shipping containers of imported plastic from the United States to other countries, instead of back to the United States. There is also a report about the expected negative impacts of the proposed Dutch Waste Import Tax. Finally, a briefing note by the European Environment Agency provides an overview of exports of plastic waste from the 28 EU Member states.

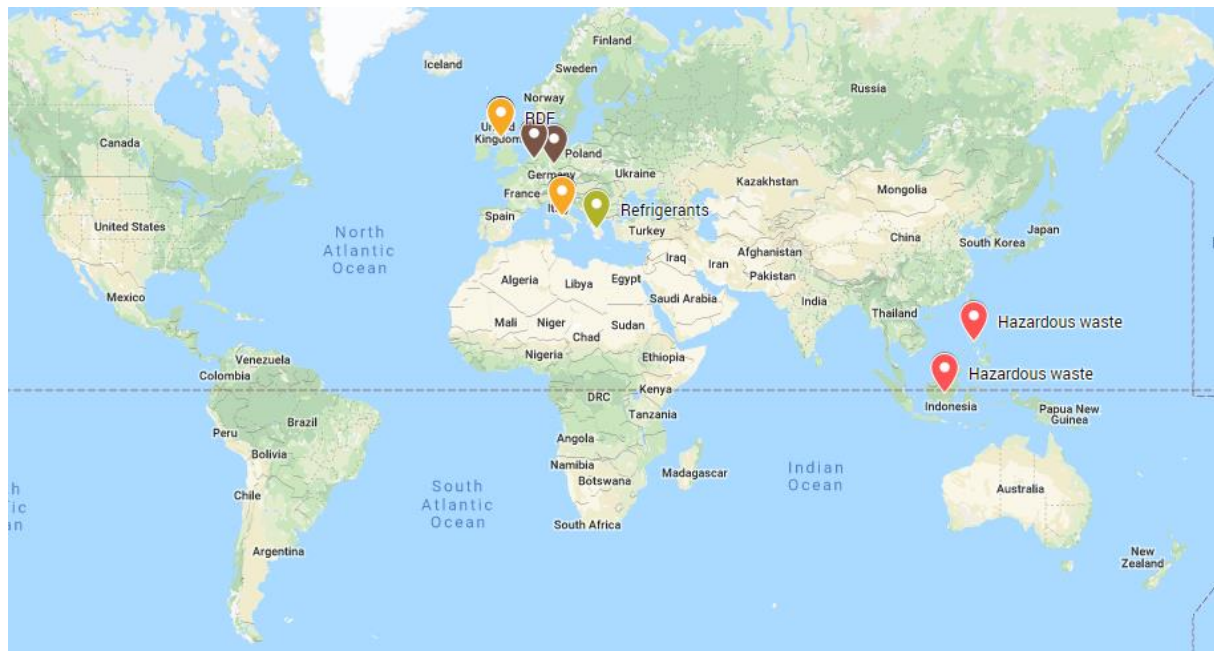
Seven news articles are included in Annex I, providing information about the illegal trade and management of waste. Two articles are about plastic, the first of which is about solutions for plastic recycling in the United States following the ban in China. The second article is about the concern from activists, that as a consequence of the ban of plastic export to China, Argentina might become a new destination for plastic waste. The other articles involve different waste types and countries, including: e-waste and the losses of money due to informal recycling in Nigeria, the illegal trade in tires in Asia, the plans in China to end illegal hazardous chemical dumping, the incineration of toxic refuse derived fuel in Bulgaria and finally an article from UN Environment and the Montreal Protocol on reported seizures of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in 24 countries. Annex I also includes information about a new book on “waste” that explains the emergence of waste governance initiatives and mechanisms.

3. Analysis of news cases ([Annex II](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between September 2019 and November 2019. In total, 16 cases were found, of which an overview can also be found in Annex III.

Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the type of waste.

For more information follow this [Link](#).



Types of waste, quantities and routes

In the identified 16 cases the following types of waste were reported: refrigerants (cases 3, 4, 6), plastic waste (cases 8, 12, 16), shipbreaking (case 9, 11), hazardous waste (case 1), a radioactive substance (case 2), e-waste (case 3), textile waste (case 5), industrial waste (case 7), tires (case 10), refuse derived fuel (case 1) and household waste (case 1).

The routes of plastic waste, household waste and hazardous waste involve export from Europe (Belgium, Germany, France, United Kingdom) to Asia (Indonesia, China, Philippines, Malaysia), export and import within Asia (Indonesia and Hong Kong) and export from Oceania (New Zealand and Australia) to Asia. Plastic waste was exported from Slovenia through Italy to China and back and textile waste via Italy to Africa. Another case involves e-waste exported from Germany via Antwerp to Nigeria. In one case old ships were exported from Germany to the Netherlands and in another case they were exported from the Netherlands to Ghana. Refrigerants were exported from Tunisia to Italy and from China to Greece. It was also reported that Greece is considered one of the major ports of entry for the illegal refrigerant, which has flooded the European market, disrupting the market and threatening the environmental credibility of the European F-gas phase down (case 4).

Specific ports that were included in the cases where waste was (re)-exported or imported are: Felixstowe in the United Kingdom; Penang Port in Malaysia; Antwerp Port in Belgium; Athens in Greece; and Genoa, Livorno, Trieste and Palermo in Italy.

Types of waste reported	Routes and case numbers
E-waste	Germany>Antwerp>Nigeria (3)
Plastic	Italy>China>Italy (8)

Refrigerants	Slovenia>Italy>China (5)
	Netherlands > Asia & Africa (12)
	United Kingdom > Malaysia> United Kingdom (16)
	China > Greece (4)
	Tunisia > Italy (6)
Hazardous waste	Germany>Antwerp>Nigeria (3)
	From Indonesia back to Belgium/Germany/France/Hong Kong/Australia/New Zealand (1)
	> Philippines (2)
Household waste	United Kingdom (Felixstowe port) > China (15)
Shipbreaking	Germany>Netherlands (9)
	Netherlands > Turkey (11)
Tires	Netherlands > Ghana (10)
RDF	Within the United Kingdom (13)
Unspecified / other	General waste within the United Kingdom (14)
	Industrial waste within Italy (7)
	Textile waste from Italy to China (5)

Table 4: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Modus operandi

In most cases the modus operandi is not described. Only in case 8 it's mentioned that the mafia exported toxic plastic waste from Italy to China, turned into shoes there and shipped back to Italy. There is also case in the United Kingdom where a company declared a household waste shipment as 98,5% waste paper.

Criminal organisations

In Italy there were three cases in which organised crime groups were involved. In case 5, Organised Crime Groups (OCG) were involved with legal business structures with members of both Italian and Chinese origin. The network includes two representatives affiliated with the Camorra. In case 7, there was also involvement of an OCG, the criminal structure is headed by subjects based in Calabria and in case 8 the Sicilian Mafia. Also, in the United Kingdom an OCG was reported to be involved in waste crime, further details are unknown. In a few other cases the involvement of companies was reported and in one case (2) the crew of a ship was arrested for illegally importing radioactive substances in the Philippines.

Sentences

For some of the cases sentences are reported, but for most of the cases investigations are still ongoing or no sentence was reported. For the illegal export of refrigerants from Tunisia to Italy there will be a possible three months prison and a fine between €50,000 and €150,000. In one case proceeds of crime were seized (12). In the case of illegal storing of RDF (13) the company is fined £510,000 and ordered to pay costs of £30,000. In case 14, illegal waste carriers risk up to £5,000 fines and finally in case 15 in the UK, the company must pay costs of £240,000

and a £9,912 confiscation order for illegal export household waste. In one of the cases there was a take back action of illegally exported waste.

2. Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III

In this WCA, two law enforcement operations are included in Annex III. Both operations are organised by EUROPOL. The first is including operation Green Tuscany that is also described in the cases in Annex III. The Italian State Forestry Corps dismantled a large OGC with this modus operandi in operation Green Tuscany, which was supported by Europol and involved law enforcement authorities from Italy and Slovenia. The criminal group trafficked plastic waste from Italy to China through Slovenia. During the operation, approximately 560 illegal shipments were monitored. The monetary value of one shipment was estimated to be between €10 000 and €15 000. By mid-May 2019, 96 individuals (74 Italians and 22 Chinese) faced charges in Italy following operation Green Tuscany. The second operation is Silver Axe, which began in 2012 to target the illegal trade of pesticides. Since its launch, 1222 tonnes of illegal and fake counterfeit products have been seized. In 2019, 550 tonnes of goods have been confiscated in Europe and three individuals arrested. Now in its fourth year, operation SILVER AXE IV saw law enforcement officers carry out checks at major seaports, airports and land borders. Production and repackaging facilities were also checked in the 29 participating countries.

3. Summary of media, see also the overview in Annex IV

In Annex IV four documentaries were included about different types of waste: the illegal export of electronics (1), two about plastic waste (2 and 3), and one about toxic ships (4). The documentaries are produced by organisations in Norway, France and the Netherlands, more information can be found in Annex IV.

Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title **Exclusive: India set to outlaw six single-use plastic products on October 2 - sources**

Organisation Government of India

Date 28-8-2019

Summary India is set to impose a nationwide ban on plastic bags, cups and straws on Oct. 2. These include plastic bags, cups, plates, small bottles, straws and certain types of sachets, said the officials, who asked not to be identified, in line with government policy. "The ban will be comprehensive and will cover manufacturing, usage and import of such items," one official said. The ban on the first six items of single-use plastics will clip 5% to 10% from India's annual consumption of about 14 million tonnes of plastic. Penalties for violations of the ban will probably take effect after an initial six-month period to allow people time to adopt alternatives, officials said. The federal government also plans tougher environmental standards for plastic products and will insist on the use of recyclable plastic only, the first source said.

Links <https://in.reuters.com/article/us-india-pollution-plastic-exclusive/exclusive-india-set-to-outlaw-six-single-use-plastic-products-on-october-2-sources-idINKCN1VI19F>

Title **Netherlands will apply hefty tax to RDF imports as of 2020**

Organisation Dutch Government

Date 18-09-2019

Summary The Dutch is government is moving ahead with plans to tax wastes imported for incineration beginning on 1 January 2020. The measure would expand an existing tax on incinerated domestic wastes, the "afvalstoffenbelasting" to include imported wastes. That waste tax rate currently stands at €32.12. The government itself predicts that the expansion of the tax will all but eliminate imports of refuse derived fuel (RDF) in just three years. Because the tax would raise the total cost of waste incineration in the Netherlands above the average price in competing countries, "the imported waste stream is expected to evaporate completely over time", according to the government's assessment of the budget measure. RDF imports currently make up around a quarter of all of the wastes incinerated in Dutch waste plants. The Netherlands imported some 1.9 million tonnes of waste for incineration in 2017.

Link <https://www.euwid-recycling.com/news/policy/single/Artikel/netherlands-will-apply-hefty-tax-to-rdf-imports-as-of-2020.html>

Title **Argentina could become 'sacrificial country' for plastic waste, say activists. Country has changed definition of waste, which campaigners fear could lead to imports of low-grade plastic scraps**

Organisation The Guardian

Date 4-11-2019

Summary Argentina has changed its definition of waste in a move that could allow it to import millions of tonnes of plastic waste discarded in the US. The country's president, Mauricio Macri, signed a decree in August reclassifying some materials destined for recycling as commodities instead of waste, allowing looser oversight of mixed and contaminated plastic scraps that are difficult to process, and are often dumped or incinerated.

Link <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/01/argentina-plastic-waste-dumping-ground-imports>

Title **Entry into force of amendment to UN treaty boosts efforts to prevent waste dumping**

Organisation **Basel Convention**

Date 13 September 2019

Summary Momentum and political will continues to grow for tackling the world's ever-intensifying waste problem, with this week celebrating the threshold for the Basel Convention's Ban Amendment to enter into force being reached. The Ban Amendment prohibits the export of hazardous waste from developed countries (OECD, EU member states, Liechtenstein) to developing countries. The Ban Amendment will enter into force on 5 December 2019 following the recent ratification by Croatia. The entry into force of the Ban Amendment has significant political weight, acting as a flagship of international efforts to ensure that those countries with the capacity to manage their hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner take responsibility for them, while still allowing Parties wishing to receive wastes required as raw materials for recycling or recovery industries.

Link <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PublicAwareness/PressReleases/BanAmendmententryintoforce/tabid/8120/Default.aspx>
<https://www.impel.eu/entry-into-force-of-amendment-to-un-treaty-boosts-efforts-to-prevent-waste-dumping/>

Title **New rules make household appliances more sustainable**

Organisation European Commission

Date 01-10-2019

Summary In a continued effort to reduce Europe's carbon footprint and to make energy bills cheaper for European consumers, the Commission today adopted new eco-design measures for products such as refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers and televisions. Improving the ecodesign of products contributes to implementing the 'Energy efficiency first' principle of the EU's Energy Union priority. For the first time the measures include requirements for repairability and recyclability, contributing to circular economy objectives by improving the life span, maintenance, re-use, upgrade, recyclability and waste handling of appliances.

Link https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-5895_en.htm

Title **Banned F gas for refilling equipment**

Organisation Government United Kingdom

Date 21-August-2019

Summary From 2020, you will not be able to use virgin (unused) F gases to refill existing refrigeration systems when:

- the refrigeration system contains F gas equivalent to 40 tonnes or more of carbon dioxide
- the F gas has a global warming potential above 2,500

Link <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/banned-f-gas-for-refilling-equipment>

Reports, articles, books

Title **Spotlight Report on Sustainability in Europe. Who is paying the bill ? (Negative) impacts of EU policies and practices in the world.**

Organisation
Date
Summary

SDG Watch Europe
2019

Studying EU policies thoroughly means studying policies of externalization. The thirteen chapters assembled in this publication constitute an impressive – impressively gloomy though – evidence for this assertion. Wherever you turn your eyes, whatever policy domain you may be concerned with: What at first glance may seem to be part of the European Union’s internal policies immediately turns out to be a story of externalities, a matter of spill-over effects transcending the borders of the European polity. And more often than not it is negative externalities that come into sight. Negative externalities that we should be talking about instead of obsessively trying to ignore them.

Link

https://mk0eeborgicuyptuf7e.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Who-is-paying-the-bill-2019_web.pdf

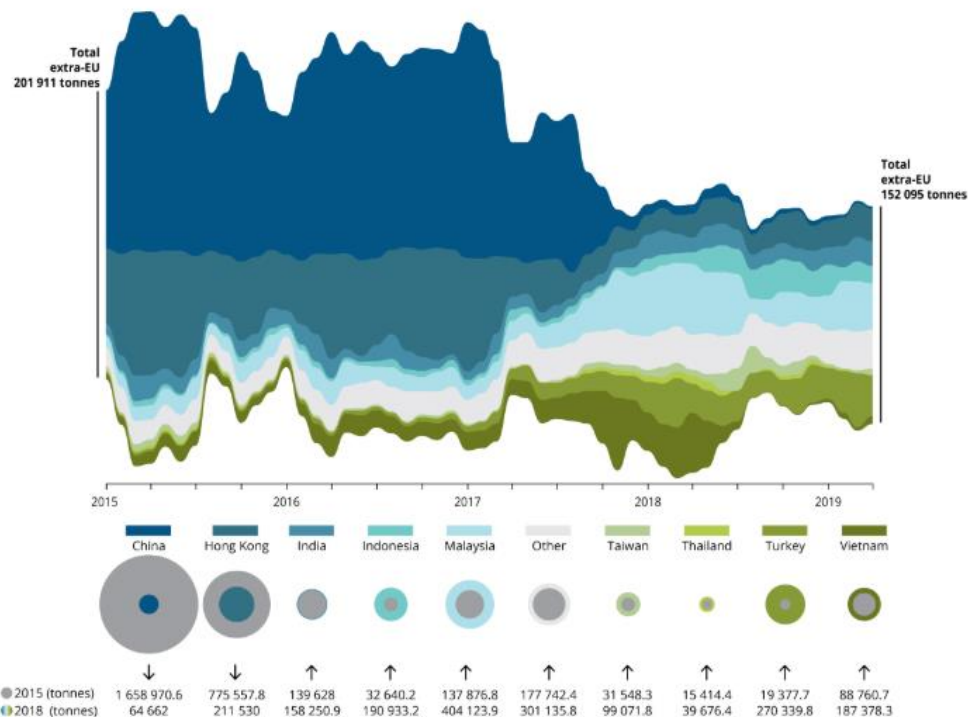
Title
Organisation
Date
Summary

The plastic waste trade in the circular economy

European Environment Agency

28 October 2019

The briefing provides an overview of exports of plastic waste from the 28 EU Member States (EU-28) to other countries and discusses its possible consequences and opportunities. It builds on a report by the EEA’s European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE).



Extra-EU-28 plastic waste trade by receiving country

Link

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/resource-efficiency/the-plastic-waste-trade-in>

Title
Organisation

U.S. Recycling Industry Is Struggling To Figure Out A Future Without China
NPR

Date	20-8-2019
Summary	Discussion about solutions for plastic recycling in the United States.
Link	https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/npr/750864036/u-s-recycling-industry-is-struggling-to-figure-out-a-future-without-china
Title	Nigeria losing billions of dollars in illegal e-waste exports'
Organisation	The Guardian
Date	28-Oct-2019
Summary	Experts have revealed that Nigeria is losing millions in foreign exchange due to the activities of the informal sector collectors of electronic waste. They urged the government to sanitise the informal e-waste recyclers through proper legislation and awareness creation.
Link	https://guardian.ng/property/nigeria-losing-billions-of-dollars-in-illegal-e-waste-exports/
Title	China plans to end illegal hazardous chemical dumping by 2025
Organisation	Reuters
Date	21-Oct-2019
Summary	China will step up efforts to end the illegal dumping of hazardous chemical waste over the next six years, raising its monitoring and treatment capacity and blacklisting violators, the environment ministry said on Monday. All regions must create a comprehensive hazardous chemical monitoring system by the end of 2025 and ensure they have sufficient treatment capacity, the ecology and environment ministry said in its notice on Monday.
Link	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-environment-chemicals/china-plans-to-end-illegal-hazardous-chemical-dumping-by-2025-idUSKBN1X00E4
Title	Report on fate of re-exports of seized illegal imports of waste from the USA to Indonesia
Organisation	Nexus3, an Indonesian NGO & Basel Action Network (BAN)
Date	28 October 2019
Summary	A report by environmental groups says the Indonesian government is shipping containers of imported plastic waste from the U.S. to other countries instead of sending them back to the source as it claimed it would.
Link	http://wiki.ban.org/images/7/7f/Report_USContainer_Re-exports_Indonesia.pdf https://news.mongabay.com/2019/11/indonesia-waste-plastic-export-import-illegal/

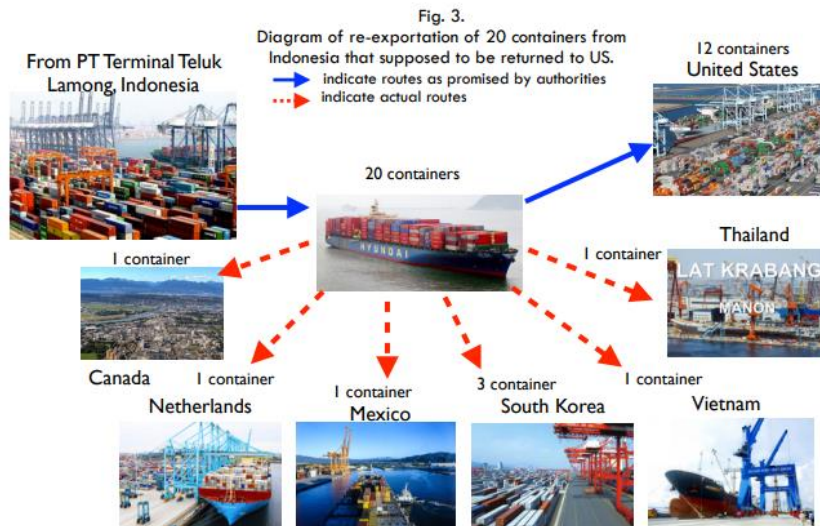


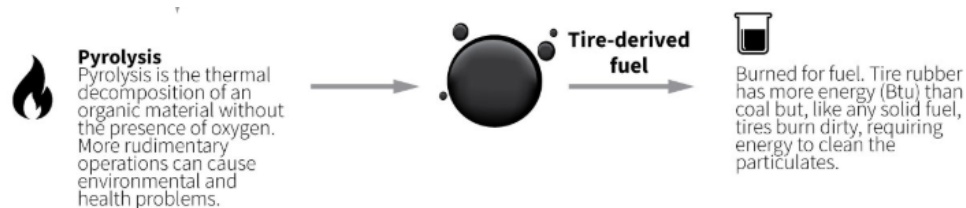
Figure 1: Figures showing the containers exported from the United States to Indonesia and the destination countries of re-exports from Indonesia. Source: Nexus3, an Indonesian NGO & Basel Action Network (BAN). http://wiki.ban.org/images/7/7f/Report_USContainer_Re-exports_Indonesia.pdf

Title Trading tires: How the West fuels a waste crisis in Asia

Organisation The Guardian

Date 18-10-2019

Summary Article regarding the global trade in waste tires. The trade has almost doubled in the past five years. The tires are burned in India and Malaysia to make low-quality oil in a process known as pyrolysis. Reuters revealed pyrolysis caused mass poisoning in southern Malaysia. Britain is currently the largest exporter, followed by Italy and the United States. India is by far the biggest buyer, accounting for 32% of global imports last year, up from 7% five years ago, the U.N. data shows. Tires are not defined as hazardous under the Basel Convention, which governs trade in dangerous waste, meaning there are few restrictions on trading them internationally unless specified by the importing country.



- Link** <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-waste-tyres-insight/trading-tires-how-the-west-fuels-a-waste-crisis-in-asia-idUSKBN1WX0LD>
- Title** **Waste**
- Organisation** Kate O'Neill, Department of environmental science, policy and management, UC Berkeley
- Date** 2019
- Summary** Waste is one of the planet's last great resource frontiers. From furniture made from up-cycled wood to gold extracted from computer circuit boards, artisans and multinational corporations alike are finding ways to profit from waste while diverting materials from overcrowded landfills. Yet beyond these benefits, this "new" resource still poses serious risks to human health and the environment. In this book Kate O'Neill traces the emergence of the global political economy of wastes over the past two decades. She explains how the emergence of waste governance initiatives and mechanisms can help us deal with both the risks and the opportunities associated with the hundreds of millions – possibly billions – of tons of waste we generate each year. Drawing on a range of fascinating case studies to develop her arguments, including China's role as the primary recipient of recyclable plastics and scrap paper from the Western world, "Zero-Waste" initiatives, the emergence of transnational waste-pickers' alliances, and alternatives for managing growing volumes of electronic and food wastes, O'Neill shows how waste can be a risk, a resource, and even a livelihood, with implications for governance at local, national, and global levels.
- Link** <https://www.amazon.com/Waste-Kate-ONeill/dp/0745687393>
- Title** **RDF Burned in Bulgaria May Contain Toxic Waste**
- Organisation** Bluelink stories
- Date** 29-6-2019
- Summary** Article describes incineration of RDF in general in Bulgaria, dilemma if RDF is waste or not and also weakness of control of such a waste.
- Link** <https://bluelink.info/environment-health/consumption-and-waste/rdf-burned-in-bulgaria-may-contain-toxic-waste/>
- Title** **Summary the Montreal Protocol Awards to recognise combatting the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities**
- Date** 29 August 2019
- Organisation** The UN Environment Programme's OzonAction, the Ozone Secretariat and the World Customs Organization.
- Summary** Globally, 24 countries reported seizures: Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Iran, Jordan, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka and Turkey. A total of 255,726 kg of

chemicals was seized, stocked in 19,992 cans, cylinders or containers, and 27,944 pieces of equipment and compressors were confiscated. Despite these impressive figures, only 24 countries, or 12 per cent of 196 countries, reported seizures. And assuming that only few per cent of traded goods are inspected, often less than 3 per cent, the magnitude of illegal trade might be significantly higher. In Latin America, a total of 9,412 cylinders and 27,024 pieces of equipment were seized. In some cases, the issue of disposal of the seized goods (re-export, destruction or auctioning) is still being decided.

Link <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/environmental-authorities-and-customs-join-forces-against-environmental>

Annex II: Cases reported in the news

Asia

Case 1. Indonesia (Europe)

Title	Indonesia to ship hazardous or improperly sorted waste back to Belgium, Europe
Date	19-9-2019
Type of waste	Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	547 containers
Routes	From Indonesia back to Belgium, Germany and France, as well as from Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal trafficking
Enforcement Action	Take back action, 331 containers are already sent back
Criminal organisation	NA
Summary	Indonesia is sending back over 500 containers with hazardous or improperly sorted waste to Belgium and other European countries. The waste was exported into the southeast Asian nation by Belgium and other European countries, including Belgium, Germany and France, as well as by Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/72565/police-arrest-man-with-knife-near-koekelberg-school-interrogated-no-threat/

Case 2. Philippines

Title	Captain, crew of ship carrying toxic waste face raps for environmental crimes
Date	26-11-2019
Type of waste	Phosphogypsum, a radioactive substance, byproduct fertilizer production
Quantity/Value	53,000 tonnes
Routes	Export to the Philippines

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import
Enforcement Action	9 persons were arrested and face charges
Criminal organisation	Captain and crew of a ship (9 persons) arrested
Summary	The Chinese captain and Filipino crew of the ship found carrying 53,000 metric tons of toxic waste into the Philippines now face complaints for environmental crimes, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Tuesday. Operatives of the NBI and of the Philippine Coast Guard arrested two Chinese nationals and seven Filipinos allegedly involved in the dumping of tons of phosphogypsum, a radioactive substance, in Cabangan, Zambales last Saturday. Phosphogypsum is a waste byproduct of the processing of phosphate rocks to yield phosphoric acid for fertilizer production. It is said to contain "naturally occurring radioactive elements."The arrested underwent inquest proceedings at the Department of Justice for violation of the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.gmanetwork-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/716839/captain-crew-of-ship-carrying-toxic-waste-face-raps-for-environmental-crimes/story/?amp

Europe

Case 3. Germany (Nigeria)

Title	Police seized vans filled with illegal waste
Date	4-9-2019
Type of waste	R12 and e-waste
Quantity/Value	Several vans
Routes	Germany- Antwerp - Nigeria (Italian driver)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Seizure of illegal waste, there will be a procedure against the driver.
Criminal organisation	NA
Summary	The police seized several vans filled with e-waste and R12, being illegally transported from Germany, via Antwerp, to Nigeria.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.transport-online.nl/site/106760/politie-haalt-autotransporter-met-illegaal-afval-gevulde-bestelwagens-van-de-weg-foto/

Case 4. Greece (China)

Title	Police seized vans filled with illegal waste
Date	12-9-2019
Type of waste	Refrigerants HFC, R407C and R404A

Quantity/Value 23,000 tonnes (1,939 illegal disposable cylinders of HFC refrigerant)

Routes China - Greece. Greece is seen as one of the major ports of entry for the illegal refrigerant, which has flooded the European market, disrupting the market and threatening the environmental credibility of the European F-gas phase down.

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal import

Enforcement Action There has been no indication of arrests in this latest case but investigations are said to be continuing to find those involved and discover how the refrigerant was imported.

Criminal organisation NA

Summary Authorities in Greece have seized over 23 tonnes of illegal HFC refrigerant found in a warehouse near Athens. The raid on the warehouse in Aigaleo, in the west of Athens, by officers of Greece’s Special Secretariat of Financial and Economic Crime Unit (SDOE) uncovered 1,939 illegal disposable cylinders of HFC refrigerant. The SDOE has not revealed the types of refrigerant seized but photos indicate it included R407C and R404A. This latest seizure, the largest since Polish authorities seized 25 tonnes of HFC in April, suggests an increasing crackdown on illegal imports of quota-busting material into the European Union. The European Commission has demanded action from member states after being alerted to the problem by the refrigeration and air conditioning industry.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/23-tonnes-of-illegal-hfc-seized-in-greece/>

Case 5. Italy (China)

Title From trash to treasure: the growing illegal waste trafficking market

Date 18-9-2019

Type of waste Plastic waste and textile waste

Quantity/Value During the operation, approximately 560 illegal shipments were monitored. The monetary value of one shipment was estimated to be between €10 000 and €15 000. This estimation makes the value the monitored cargos alone around €8 million

Routes Plastic from Italy to China through Slovenia, Textile from the Italian ports of Genoa, Livorno and Trieste to Africa

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal trafficking

Enforcement Action By mid-May 2019, 96 individuals (74 Italians and 22 Chinese) faced charges in Italy following operation Green Tuscany. The first trial opened on 20 May this year. The collaboration between the Italian and Slovenian law enforcement authorities, Europol and Eurojust revealed the international dimension of the investigation and led to the prosecution of 96 members of the organised crime group.

Criminal organisation Organised Crime Groups with legal business structures, the members of the network were of both Italian and Chinese origin, including two representatives affiliated with the Camorra.

Summary The Italian State Forestry Corps (Carabinieri Forestale) dismantled a large OGC with this modus operandi in operation Green Tuscany, which was supported by Europol and involved law enforcement authorities from Italy and Slovenia.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/trash-worth-millions-of-euros>

Case 6. Italy (Tunisia)

Title Italian customs intercept banned R22 refrigerant
Date 4-9-2019
Type of waste Refrigerants HCFC R22, R134a, R410A and R404A
Quantity/Value 11 cylinders of refrigerant in illegal disposable cylinders
Routes From Tunisia to Italy (Palermo)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal trafficking
Enforcement Action The shipment was seized, those responsible for bringing the gas into the country face three months to nine months prison or a fine from €50,000 to €150,000.
Criminal organisation NA
Summary Customs authorities in Palermo have intercepted a shipment of refrigerant, including the banned HCFC R22, from Tunisia.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/italian-customs-intercept-banned-r22-refrigerant/>

Case 7. Italy

Title • **Illicit trafficking of waste in Lombardia, Campania and Calabria: 11 persons arrested**

Date 07-10-2019
Type of waste Industrial and urban waste
Quantity/Value 60 thousands tons (14k t seized during the operation / value 1.4 million EUR)
Routes From the Campania region in the South of Italy, to sites both in the North - Lombardia (Como, Varedo, Gessate, Cinisello Balsamo + 'ex Snia' plant of 400 thousands square meters) and in the South - Calabria (Gizzeri)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi A criminal organization, headed by subjects originating from Calabria, created a complex structure made by authorized and complicit plants, complaisant transporters, fictitious companies assigned to front men and using fake documentations. They were managing a huge trafficking of urban and industrial waste coming from plants placed in Campania, and then discarded into abandoned warehouses both in the North and in the South of Italy.
Enforcement Action Follow-up of 2018 operation Fire Starter, coordinated by the Antimafia District Directorate in Milan.
Criminal organisation Organized crime. Criminal structure headed by subjects based in Calabria.
Summary Following the investigations for a fire that took place in a plant in the North of Italy in 2018, the law enforcement dismantled a criminal structure involved in the

illicit disposal of waste into abandoned warehouses both in the North and South of Italy.

For more information, please visit: https://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/10/07/news/rifiuti_smaltimento_illecito_arresti_lombardia_pavia-237877111/

Case 8. Italy (China)

Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police bust 'mafia recycling ring' that made shoes from toxic plastic
Date	25-10-2019
Type of waste	Plastic Waste
Quantity/Value	NA
Routes	Toxic plastic waste from Italy to China, turned into shoes and shipped back to Italy
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal Trafficking
Enforcement Action	15 people, including two businessmen, were arrested during a raid in and around Ragusa, Sicily. Authorities also seized five companies in Sicily linked to the suspects.
Criminal organisation	Sicilian Mafia
Summary	Italian Police have dismantled a mafia plastic-recycling ring headed by a murderous mobster that sent toxic materials to China to make shoes which were then sold in Italy
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thelocal.it/20191025/italian-mafia-caught-turning-toxic-plastic-into-shoes

Case 9. Netherlands (Germany)

Title	Illegal waste movement
Date	28-6-2019
Type of waste	Ship
Quantity/Value	One ship
Routes	Germany to the Netherlands
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal movement of waste
Enforcement Action	NA
Criminal organisation	NA
Summary	Transfer of a ship from Germany into the Netherlands that should have been declared a waste in violation with the Waste Shipment regulation (EC No 1013/2006). Illegal movements complicate the control of waste movements into the Netherlands by Dutch authorities. Rules are drawn up to protect environmental quality and public health. These goals have been undermined by the suspects behaviour. In determining the seriousness of the fact, the court

considers it important that there are no indications that the authorities would not have authorized the transfer if they had been informed. Nor has it been found that environmental regulations were not complied with in the actual demolition of the ship. The court has taken these circumstances into account in determining the penalty in favour of the suspect. The court has imposed a totally conditional fine of € 5000.

For more information, please visit: <http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:RBAMS:2019:4531>

Case 10. Netherlands (Ghana)

Title	Illegal shipment of waste
Date	17-7-2019
Type of waste	tires (B3140), papers (B3020), TV's (A1180)
Quantity/ Value	One container
Routes	Netherlands-Ghana
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Professional shipper transports containers on a regular basis
Enforcement Action	Conviction and fine of €10,000
Criminal organisation	Professional shipper
Summary	Conviction for accessory to transport of a container with waste from the Netherlands to Ghana. Legal entity is fined € 10.000.
For more information, please visit:	https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI%3ANL%3ARBROT%3A2019%3A5617&showbutton=true

Case 11. The Netherlands (Turkey)

Title	Raids at companies for suspicion of illegal shipbreaking
Date	12-6-2019
Type of waste	Ships
Quantity/Value	Several ships
Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Netherlands to Turkey
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal export
Enforcement Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raids by the police, start of investigation.
Criminal organisation	One company and three persons
Summary	The police did four raids and suspects two companies and three persons for exporting two ships in 2018 for shipbreaking. They were exported to Turkey without permission of the Turkish authorities and suspected falsification of documents.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.nieuwsbladtransport.nl/scheepvaart/2019/06/12/invallen-in-flevoland-wegens-illegale-scheepssloop-turkije/?gdpr=accept>

Case 12. The Netherlands

Title	Raids in Venlo for illegal waste exports
Date	21-8-2019
Type of waste	Different types, including plastic waste
Quantity/Value	12 million kg of waste
Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the Netherlands to Asia and Africa
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Raid, seizure proceeds of crime (money, expensive watches)
Criminal organisation	NA
Summary	The suspect has no permit for the export of waste, he laundered the profits.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.1limburg.nl/invallen-venlo-voor-illegale-afvalexport>

Case 13. United Kingdom

Title	Illegally stockpiled RDF leads to £510,000 fine
Date	29-1-2019
Type of waste	Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)
Quantity/Value	Thousands of tons/450 bales
Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal storing
Enforcement Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company was fined £510,000 and ordered to pay costs of £30,000.
Criminal organisation	A company
Summary	A haulier and his company have been fined more than half a million pounds for illegally storing thousands of tonnes of baled refuse-derived fuel (RDF).

For more information, please visit: <https://www.mrw.co.uk/latest/illegally-stockpiled-rdf-leads-to-510000-fine/10039372.article>

Case 14. United Kingdom

Title	Cracking down on north London waste crime
Date	3-10-2019

Type of waste	Multiple
Quantity/ Value	4 vehicles
Routes	From London to the south east of the United Kingdom
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal trafficking
Enforcement Action	Operation Angola: 45 vehicles were inspected., 4 vehicles were linked to waste crime and seized and destroyed. Illegal waste carriers risk up to £5,000 fines.
Criminal organisation	Organised waste crime, further details unknown
Summary	Crime officers targeted waste carriers on roads across Brent as part of Operation Angola – a collaboration of various agencies led by the Environment Agency to target criminals dumping significant amounts of waste across the south east.
For more information, please visit:	HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/GOVERNMENT/NEWS/CRACKING-DOWN-ON-NORTH-LONDON-WASTE-CRIME

Case 15. United Kingdom (China)

Title	Biffa fined £350k for contaminated China paper shipment
Date	27-9-2019
Type of waste	Household waste
Routes	United Kingdom (Felixstowe port in Suffolk) to China
Quantity/ Value	Seven 25 tonne shipping containers were seized, but the company exported a total of 10,855 tonnes worth £640,000
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The company declared the waste shipment as 98,5% waste paper
Criminal organisation	Company
Enforcement action	Biffa Waste Services was convicted in June of two counts of breaching waste transportation laws in 2015 following a trial at Wood Green Crown Court. It must pay costs of £240,000 and a £9,912 confiscation order.
Summary	Waste management giant Biffa has been fined £350,000 for trying to send household rubbish to China as paper fit for recycling.
For more information, please visit:	https://www-bbc-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.bbc.com/news/amp/uk-england-suffolk-49857958

Case 16. United Kingdom (Malaysia)

Title	Exported plastic waste returning to the UK
Date	20-9-2019
Type of waste	Plastic Waste
Quantity/Value	42 containers
Routes	Repatriation from Malaysia (Penang Port) to the UK
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal trafficking
Criminal organisation	

Summary Environment Agency officers are to investigate the contents of 42 containers of plastic waste that are being repatriated to the UK from Malaysia.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/exported-plastic-waste-returning-to-the-uk/>

Annex III: IGO Enforcement Actions

Title Trash worth millions of Euros
Organisation EUROPOL
Date 18-9-2019
Summary EUROPOL article on waste crime: several factors (striving to reduce expenses, economic crises and structural challenges in different industrial sectors) encourage the proliferation of illegal waste disposal services. This demand causes organised crimes groups (OCGs) to specialise in waste management. Legal business structures are an integral aspect of this crime phenomenon. However, the companies involved in such activities engage in a number of crimes for which they are usually prosecuted. The article also reports on Operation Green Tuscany that can be found under cases.

Link <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/trash-worth-millions-of-euros>

Title Operation Silver Axe Striked for the fourth time seizing over 550 tonnes of illegal pesticides

Date 18-10-2019

Organisation EUROPOL

Summary A new milestone for one of Europol's annual operations, supported by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and involving nearly 30 countries. Operation Silver Axe began in 2012 to target the illegal trade of pesticides. Since its launch, 1222 tonnes of illegal and fake counterfeit products have been seized. In 2019, 550 tonnes of goods have been confiscated in Europe and three individuals arrested. Now in its fourth year, operation SILVER AXE IV saw law enforcement officers carry out checks at major seaports, airports and land borders. Production and repackaging facilities were also checked in the 29 participating countries.



<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/operation-silver-axe-strikes-for-fourth-time-seizing-over-550-tonnes-of-illegal-pesticides>

Annex IV: Videos and documentaries

Documentary	Waste smugglers - original title in Norwegian: Sjøpelsmuglerne
Date	October 2019
Organisation	Brennpunkt, NRK TV.
Summary	Parked cars are filled with electronics, then they disappear. Brennpunkt reveals a hidden millionaire industry with major environmental consequences.
Link	https://tv.nrk.no/serie/brennpunkt/2019/MDDP11000819/avspiller
Documentary	Cash investigation Plastique la grande intox Intégrale
Date	September 2018
Organisation	Cash Investigation
Summary	Ten tons of plastic are produced every second in the world and one of them ends up in the oceans ... At this rate, there will be more plastic than fish in the sea in 2050! The magazine "Cash Investigation" in partnership with the weekly magazine Le 1, has set off to explore this ever-growing plastic continent, as big brands are addicted to this material, pushing to consume more and more plastic. The magazine presented by Elise Lucet also reveals how certain plastics are contaminated by chemicals that are dangerous to health.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct6f4s-eH9E
Documentary	Our plastic waste poisons Malaysia (Nos déchets en plastique empoisonnent la Malaisie)
Date	5-9-2019
Organisation	Envoyé spécial
Summary	Since China's decision in January 2018 to stop the import of plastic waste from around the world for recycling, Malaysia has recovered a large part of it. Plastic from all over the world arrives in Malaysia's main port, Port Kelang, in containers transported by ship. Today, this Southeast Asian country is drowning in garbage. In two years, its imports have more than tripled. In 2018, France alone exported 18,000 tons of plastic.
Link	https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/environnement-et-sante/video-nos-dechets-en-plastique-empoisonnent-la-malaisie_3602939.html
Documentary	SBM conceals serious health risks of toxic ship
Date	16-9-2019
Organisation	Zembla
Summary	A documentary about shipbreaking, including about a Dutch multinational company that allowed a heavily polluted gas tanker to be demolished on an Indian beach in 2018.
Link	Youtube: https://youtu.be/CaxkaxW8uUE Article: https://www.bnnvara.nl/zembla/artikelen/sbm-conceals-serious-health-risks-of-toxic-ship



WasteForce Crime Alert #5

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Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 5

Disclaimer

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The Waste Force project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications, policy updates and relevant videos and documentaries. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #5 summarises information that was published between December 2019 and February 2020. The waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

18. Introduction
19. Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
20. Summary of News cases published, see also the overview in Annex II
21. Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III
22. Summary of Media, see also the overview in Annex IV

2. Summary of new publications and legislative and governance updates. ([Annex I](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of recent publications, highlighting important trafficking routes, hot spots, modus operandi and so on. A summary and references to each publication can also be found in Annex I.

Legislation and governance

Two articles are included in Annex I about regulations. In the United Kingdom the Environment Bill has been reintroduced outlining powers to stop the exports of plastic waste to developing countries. However, according to the Environmental Investigation Issue it is an issue plastic waste can still be sent to OECD partners such as Chile, Mexico and Turkey, some of them have serious issues when it comes to dealing with plastic waste.

Secondly, ITV News did an investigation on the trade in textile from the United Kingdom to Ghana and calls on tougher regulations. They found that in one year 63,418,990 kg of old clothes from the UK were sent to be sold in Ghana.



Figure 1: Piles of waste clothing stacked up in Ghana. Source: ITV News <https://www.itv.com/news/2020-02-18/calls-for-tougher-regulation-of-second-hand-cloths/>

Articles

Two articles are included in Annex I. The first is about the establishment of a new taskforce in the United Kingdom dedicated to tackling serious and organised waste crime. The Joint Unit for Waste Crime (JUWC) will for the first time bring together law enforcement agencies, environmental regulators, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the National Crime Agency in the war against waste crime.

The second article summarises data published by the NGO shipbreaking platform. The platform reported 674 ocean-going commercial ships and offshore units were sold to the scrap yards in 2019. Of these vessels, 469 large tankers, bulkers, floating platforms, cargo- and passenger ships were broken down in primitive, substandard conditions on three beaches in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, amounting to near 90% of the gross tonnage dismantled globally.

3. Analysis of news cases ([Annex II](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between December 2019 and February 2020 2019. In total, 17 cases were collected, of which an overview can also be found in Annex III.

Figure 2: Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the origin or destination country

For more information follow this [Link](#).



- 📍 Origin country or national case
- 📍 Destination country or national case

Types of waste and routes

In the identified 17 cases the following types of waste were reported: e-waste (cases 9, 12, 16), plastic waste (cases 2, 3 and 6), hazardous waste (cases 1, 7 and 8), mixed waste including household, industry, paper and food waste (cases 4, 10, 11, 13, 14), ozone depleting substances (case 17), shipbreaking (case 5) and metal scrap (case 15).

There is one case involving an illicit export from Europe to Africa, in four cases the route is from Europe to Asia, in seven cases there are routes within Europe, in four cases there is waste exported from North America to Asia or within Asia and finally in one case there is export from Asia to Europe (Hydrofluorocarbons). Seven cases included a repatriation of waste (cases 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14).

Types of waste reported	Routes and case numbers
E-waste	Case 9 Israel > Westbank
	Case 12 United Kingdom
Plastic	Case 16 Italy > North Africa / Ghana
	Case 2 France > Malaysia > France
	Case 3 Italy > Malaysia
	Case 6 globally > Malaysia
Ozone Depleting Substances	Case 17 > China/ Russia > European Union

Hazardous waste	Case 1 Greece > Liberia > Greece
	Case 7 Philippines > Canada > Philippines
	Case 8 South Korea > Philippines > South Korea
Mixed waste (household, industry, paper, food)	Case 4 Spain > Southeast Asia
	Case 10 Belgium > France
	Case 11 The Netherlands
	Case 13 Italy > Bulgaria
	Case 14 United Kingdom > Poland
	Case 5 Norway > India
Shipbreaking	Case 5 Norway > India
Metal Scrap	Case 15 Italy

Table 5: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Quantities and values

Imports and Exports

In seven cases there were illegal exports of waste in containers, the following numbers were indicated over different periods of time:

- 4 containers of hazardous waste (case 1)
- 43 containers of plastic waste (case 2)
- 2,880 tonnes of plastic waste (case 3)
- 78 illegal shipments with 67,000 tonnes of mixed waste worth €10 million (case 4)
- 150 containers plus 4120 tonnes (case 6)
- 69 containers (case 7)
- 201 container (case 8)

In case 5 a shuttle tanker was exported for shipbreaking.

In two cases, smuggling through road transport was reported, in case 10 involving up to 200 tonnes of mixed waste. And an estimated illegal import in the European Union of HFCs between 10 to 16.3 million tonnes (case 17).

Storage

In three cases there was illegal storage of waste, the following quantities were reported:

- 9,300 tonnes of paper worth €2.3 million (case 4)
- 7 kton of leftover waste of food producers was stored and the company made an estimated 4 million euros in two years (case 11)
- Illegal storage of more than 220 tons (case 14)

Fraud

In two cases there was fraud involved, totalling proceeds of crime of £1.48 million (case 12) and illegal profits of €3.5 million (case 15).

Modus operandi

In ten cases there was illegal export of waste, but no reporting on the modus operandi. Two cases involved fraud.

In case 13, the director of a company submitted fictitious claims for the recycling of approximately 10,600 tonnes of electronic waste. The company operated from a warehouse and forged paperwork.

In case 15, there was fraud with sales of waste collected and sold to collection schemes. Small entrepreneurs acting at the first level of the 'waste chain' were collecting metal scraps and then transferring them to collection schemes (second level). Fake invoices were issued (amounts were not declared to the tax agency), for higher amounts of products/waste than those effectively treated. This was done to cover the amount of products/waste coming from parallel illicit circuits. The invoices were paid through bank transfers to the first-level actors, who then withdrew the relevant amount of money and brought them back in cash to the collection platforms, keeping only a small amount as a form of 'payment'.

In one other case (16) waste was stored in an open warehouse to load containers before illegal export. In case 14, waste was exported from the United Kingdom to Poland where it was dumped in warehouses in Bogaczew, 72 miles from the port city of Gdansk, see Figure 2.



Figure 3: The mountain of cardboard, drinks bottles, aluminium foil and other items was found in a warehouse in Bogaczew, 72 miles from the port city of Gdansk. **Source:** <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7987623/220-tons-recycled-waste-Britain-dumped-warehouse-Poland.html>

Criminal organisations

In at least five cases (4, 5, 8, 11, 12) companies were reported to be involved. In two cases there was involvement of a criminal organisation. In case 4, 42 individuals suspected to be part of a criminal network based in Madrid were arrested. They are suspected to organise the illegal collection of paper and paperboard in the city on behalf of a company. This waste was then mixed with legally collected waste, in breach of the regulative framework. In case 13, the Bulgarian authorities are investigating the involvement of the Ndrangheta, a mafia organization in the Calabria region after the seizure last December of large shipments of garbage destined to Bulgaria.

4. Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III

One global operation led by INTERPOL involving 61 countries is included in annex III. The operation identified thousands of illicit activities behind severe marine pollution. Codenamed 30 Days at Sea 2.0, the month-long (1-31 October) operation gathered more than 200 enforcement authorities worldwide for concerted action across all continents. Illustrating the severe global extent of marine pollution crime, preliminary operational results have already revealed more than 3,000 offences detected during 17,000 inspections. As part of Operation 30 Days at Sea 2.0, INTERPOL hosted an Operational Command Centre (OCC) in Singapore to focus on the illegal trade in plastic waste, a key threat to marine environment security. The OCC brought key countries together to trigger investigations into cases of illegal export or import of plastic waste. INTERPOL is now working with more than 100 enforcement agencies worldwide on investigations triggered by Operation 30 Days at Sea 2.0. The European leg of 30 Days at Sea 2.0 was coordinated in cooperation with Europol and Frontex - the European Border and Coast Guard Agency

5. Summary of media, see also the overview in Annex IV

The Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), supported by Europol and the Spanish Central Prosecutor Unit for Environment and Urbanism published a video of a criminal network illicitly collecting paper from the city of Madrid.

Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title	New environment Bill United Kingdom
Organisation	UK Government
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Date	30-1-2020

Summary The UK Government's long-awaited Environment Bill has finally been reintroduced to Parliament, outlining powers to stop the exports of plastic waste to developing countries. According to the Environmental Investigation Issue it is an issue plastic waste can still be send to OECD partners such as Chile, Mexico and Turkey, some of them have serious issues when it comes to dealing with plastic waste.

Links <https://eia-international.org/news/a-wasted-opportunity-plastic-waste-exports-targeted-by-uk-but-further-action-needed/>
<https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-Government-s--gold-standard--Environment-Bill-reintroduced/>

Title **Calls for tougher regulation of second hand clothes**

Organisation ITV

Type of waste Textile waste

Date 18-2-2020

Summary Following an investigation by ITV News, the UK's recycling industry is calling for better regulation of the international trade in second-hand clothing. The Textile Recycling Association says the Environment Agency should do more to prevent "people operating under the radar". ITV News found that 63, 418,990 kg of old clothes from the UK were sent to be sold in Ghana last year - an analysis shows that's doubled in a decade. The value of has halved from as little as £200 a tonne to just £100 in just 12 months, according to industry documents. The evidence shows exports of second hand clothes to developing countries are becoming an unmanageable deluge. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs told ITV where there is evidence of illegal activity, officers carry out inspections at sites and ports to stop, correct or return loads. A spokesperson said "we are working to bring in new laws so the fashion industry makes sustainable choices, as well as exploring tighter regulations for clothing exports".

Link <https://www.itv.com/news/2020-02-18/calls-for-tougher-regulation-of-second-hand-cloths/>

Articles

Title **Clock is ticking for waste criminals as new taskforce launched**

Organisation UK Government

Date 16-01-2020

Summary A new taskforce dedicated to tackling serious and organised waste crime, such as dumping hazardous materials on private land and falsely labelling waste so it can be exported abroad to unsuspecting countries, has been launched 16 January 2020. The Joint Unit for Waste Crime (JUWC) will for the first time bring together law enforcement agencies, environmental regulators, HMRC and the National Crime Agency in the war against waste crime. The new unit bolsters the Environment Agency's (EA) existing efforts to tackle waste crime. Last year, the Agency's dedicated team stopped illegal waste activity at 912 sites - 12 per cent more than the previous year. As a result of prosecutions taken by the EA, businesses and individuals were fined almost £2.8 million for environmental offences in 2018.

Link <https://foreignaffairs.co.nz/2020/01/16/mil-osi-united-kingdom-clock-is-ticking-for-waste-criminals-as-new-taskforce-launched/>

Title **List of ships scrapped worldwide reveals US shipowners are among the worst dumpers**

Organisation Basel Action Network and the Shipbreaking Platform

Date	04-02-2020
Summary	According to new data released today by the NGO Shipbreaking Platform, 674 ocean-going commercial ships and offshore units were sold to the scrap yards in 2019. Of these vessels, 469 large tankers, bulkers, floating platforms, cargo- and passenger ships were broken down in primitive, substandard conditions on three beaches in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, amounting to near 90% of the gross tonnage dismantled globally. Last year, at least 26 workers lost their lives when breaking apart the global fleet. The Platform documented accidents that killed 24 workers on the beach of Chattogram (formerly known as Chittagong, Bangladesh), making 2019 the worst year for Bangladeshi yards in terms of fatalities since 2010. At least another 34 workers were severely injured.
Link	https://www.ban.org/news/2020/2/4/9hu9e6ipsha32r1td837frek8u3kuq

Annex II: Cases reported in the news

Europe – Africa

Case 1. Greece - Liberia

Title	Liberia: authorities repatriate cargo of toxic waste to Greece
Date	15-1-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste including butane, hexane and octene
Quantity/Value	4 containers
Routes	Greece to Liberia and back
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export from Greece to Liberia through an American waste management company
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	unknown
Summary	On January 2, 2020, the Port of Monrovia's smuggling unit quarantined four 40-foot containers containing hazardous chemical waste after having noticed that an unusual and foul odor emanated from them. Pursuant to section 55-1 of the Liberia Environmental Protection and Management Act (EMPL), the Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered the repatriation of the containers illegally brought into Liberia by Republic Waste Services, a US waste management company, to their sender (Stayropoulou Dimitra) in Greece. The tests confirmed, among other things, the presence of three dangerous organic compounds: butane, hexane and octene. Waste whose recycling is prohibited in Greece.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.afrik21.africa/liberia-les-autorites-rapatrient-une-cargaison-de-dechets-toxiques-vers-la-grece/

Europe – Asia

Case 2. France - Malaysia

Title	Malaysia: 43 waste containers returned to France
Date	22-2-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste

Quantity/Value	43 containers
Routes	France to Malaysia and back
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	illegal export of waste
Enforcement	Repatriation
Action	
Criminal organisation	Unknown
Summary	Malaysia returned 150 containers of illegal plastic waste to the country of origin, including 43 to France.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/asie/pollution-en-chine/malaisie-43-conteneurs-de-dechets-renvoyes-vers-la-france_3795165.html

Case 3. Italy - Malaysia

Title	Italy told to stop using Malaysia as plastics dumping ground
Date	10-2-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	The investigation by a team of journalists at Greenpeace Italy found that of the 2,880 tonnes of plastic waste Italy exported to Malaysia between January and September last year, almost half was received by companies operating illegally.
Routes	Italy to Malaysia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal exports
Enforcement	unknown
Action	
Criminal organisation	unknown
Summary	The Italian government has been urged to end the illicit export of plastic waste to Malaysia after an investigation exposed the environmental and health implications of the country being used as a prime dumping ground for unrecyclable plastic. Demand for plastic is the second highest in the EU, after Germany, and it is the sixth-largest exporter of plastic waste to Malaysia. Malaysian imports of plastic waste from wealthy countries have risen dramatically since China, previously the world's biggest importer, imposed a ban in January 2018.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/10/italy-told-to-stop-using-malaysia-as-plastics-dumping-ground-greenpeace-landfill

Case 4. Spain to Southeast Asia mainly China, India, Indonesia and South Korea

Title	42 arrested for trafficking stolen waste Spain to Asia
Date	7-2-2020
Type of waste	Illegally collected paper mixed with legally collected waste
Quantity/Value	The investigation into this very well structured criminal network uncovered 9 300 tonnes of paper worth €2.3 million. In addition, 278 illegal shipments with 67 000 tonnes of waste worth €10 million were also discovered.
Routes	Spain (Madrid) to Southeast Asia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The company was organising illegal collection of paper and paperboard in the city. This waste was then mixed with legally collected waste, in breach of the regulative framework
Enforcement	42 arrests, investigation ongoing
Action	

Criminal organisation	The investigation focused on a company, based in Madrid, which was specialised in waste management. Since 2015, the company was organising illegal collection of paper and paperboard in the city. This waste was then mixed with legally collected waste, in breach of the regulative framework. The operation led to the arrests of 42 individuals suspected to be part of the criminal network.
Summary	The Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), supported by Europol and the Spanish Central Prosecutor Unit for Environment and Urbanism (Fiscalía de Medio Ambiente y Urbanismo), cracked down on a large criminal network involved in environmental crime and money laundering. The criminal group, was stealing waste and trafficking it to Southeast Asia and is believed to have generated about €16 million loss for the municipality of Madrid.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/42-arrested-for-trafficking-stolen-waste-spain-to-asia

Case 5. Norway - India

Title	Norwegian police raid shipping company office over waste export
Date	30-1-2020
Type of waste	Shipbreaking
Quantity/Value	Shipbreaking
Routes	Export of a shuttle tanker
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Norway to India Unknown
Enforcement Action	Investigation is ongoing
Criminal organisation	One international shipping company
Summary	Norway's national economic crime unit raided the local office of international shipping company Teekay Offshore this week on suspicion of illegally exporting waste, the agency, known as Okokrim, said on Thursday. In recent years, courts in Europe using tougher regulations have fined shipping companies for transporting hazardous waste for disposal in cases that have added to complexities for seaborne transporters often operating in several jurisdictions.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-shipping-investigation/norwegian-police-raid-shipping-company-office-over-waste-export-idUSKBN1ZT2JZ

Exports to Asia and within Asia

Case 6. Globally to Malaysia

Title	Malaysia returns thousands of tons of trash to wealthy countries, says it refuses to be their "garbage dump"
Date	January 21, 2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	Malaysia has successfully returned 150 containers and the country will send another 110 containers of trash back to its origin countries by the middle of 2020. So far, 4,120 tons of waste have been returned to the U.S.
Routes	Up to now, 43 containers have been sent back to France, 42 to the United Kingdom, 17 to the United States, 11 to Canada, 10 to Spain and the rest to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Portugal, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export, smuggling
Enforcement Action	Repatriation of 260 containers, Malaysian ports have been under strict order to block the smuggling of waste. Additionally, more than 200 illegal plastic recycling factories have been shut down.
Criminal organisation Summary	Unknown Malaysia will no longer allow other countries to dump their plastic waste on its land. The country has successfully returned 150 containers of plastic waste to 13 mostly wealthy nations since the end of last year. On Monday, Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Yeo Bee Yin said the country will send another 110 containers of trash back to its origin countries by the middle of 2020. So far, 4,120 tons of waste have been returned to the U.S.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/plastic-waste-malaysia-return-tons-trash-wealthy-countries-refuses-to-be-garbage-dump/

Case 7. Canada- Philippines

Title	Feds working to stop illegal shipments of garbage from Canada
Date	14-1-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	69 containers
Routes	Repatriation from the Phillipines back to Canada
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Canadian governments finally brought back 69 shipping containers
Criminal organisation Summary	unknown The federal government expects to make some changes this year to keep Canada's garbage from illegally ending up on foreign shores, after needing to bring dozens of shipping containers of rotting garbage back home from at least two Asian countries last year. Canada spent \$1.14 million in June 2019 to bring 69 shipping containers filled trash to a waste-to-energy facility near Vancouver, ending a six-year diplomatic row with the Philippines.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/01/14/news/feds-working-stop-illegal-shipments-garbage-canada

Case 8. South Korea - Philippines

Title	All illegally dumped waste in '18 to be sent back in Feb—Customs
Date	17-2-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste including mixed nonbiodegradable waste
Quantity/Value	In total 201 containers reexported waste
Routes	South Korea to the Philippines and back
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	Waste materials were “unlawfully imported” by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. in July and October 2018.

Summary The Bureau of Customs (BOC) said all the waste illegally shipped to the country in 2018 will be sent back to South Korea within the month. In a statement on Sunday, BOC said a total of 101 containers were already reexported to South Korea in January 13 last year and January 19 this year. Citing a statement from Port of Cagayan de Oro District Collector John Simon, the BOC said the remaining batches of waste that were scheduled to be shipped in Saturday, February 16, and February 23 shall bring the total reexported waste to 201 containers, “and shall finally rid the country of the illegally imported waste.”

For more information, please visit: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/02/17/all-illegally-dumped-waste-in-18-to-be-sent-back-in-feb-customs/>

Case 9. Israel – Westbank

Title Israeli waste invades the West Bank
Date 6-2-2020
Type of waste E-waste and medical waste
Quantity/Value Unknown

Routes From Israel to the Westbank
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal export and informal recycling
Enforcement unknown
Action
Criminal organisation unknown

Summary Computers, end-of-life appliances and obsolete medical equipment are illegally sent and recycled informally in and around Ida village. The south of the West Bank has become, in recent years, a large landfill filled with Israeli electronic waste.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.rfi.fr/fr/podcasts/20200203-d%C3%A9chets-dangereux-isra%C3%A9liens-envahissent-cisjordanie>

Within Europe

Case 10. Belgium/ Luxembourg - France

Title Waste smuggling explodes at the border
Date 3-1-2020
Type of waste Mixed (household, industrial)
Quantity/ Value Up to 200 tonnes
Routes From Belgium and Luxembourg to France
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal smuggling and dumping of waste
Enforcement unknown
Action
Criminal organisation Involvement of companies, possible involvement organised crime

Summary Waste smuggling is increasing at the French border with Belgium, Luxembourg where management cost is more expensive. In 2017, local customs made 11 infringement reports for a total of 7 tonnes of garbage. In 2018, 42 infringements

noted for 135 tonnes, and 2019 confirms the trend. Offenders range from individuals to companies (e.g. Mondial Services, Snoeys Recyclage 2 Belgian companies).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.presseagence.fr/lettre-economique-politique-paca/2020/01/20/paris-retour-en-france-de-43-conteneurs-de-dechets-illegaux/>

Case 11. The Netherlands

Title	Police arrested 3 suspects for systematical reclassification of animal feed
Date	6-2-2020
Type of waste	Mixed waste
Quantity/Value	The company stored 7 kton of left over waste of food producers. The company made an estimated 4 million euros in two years.
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal mixing of animal food with left over waste of food producing companies.
Enforcement Action	Three suspects are arrested, the investigation is ongoing.
Criminal organisation	Company with three suspects
Summary	The police arrested three employees of a company under suspicion of illegal mixing of animal food with food waste.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.bijzonderstrafrecht.nl/home/politie-houdt-3-verdachten-aan-voor-stelselmatig-omkatten-veevoer?rq=omkatten

Case 12. United Kingdom

Title	Brothers given jail terms for WEEE fraud
Date	6-1-2019
Type of waste	Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)
Quantity/Value	Fictitious claims for the recycling of approximately 10,600 tonnes of electronic waste. The company received payments totalling £1.48 million from producer compliance scheme Weelight, which was formed by WEEE compliance firm AVC Weeeco Ltd in 2008. According to the Environment Agency, the court also heard how Saleem Rehman stole approximately £36,000 from the company account, spending the money on foreign travel, school fees and car hire. EWS went into voluntary liquidation in 2014 with debts of over £116,000.
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The director of a company submitted fictitious claims for the recycling of approximately 10,600 tonnes of electronic waste. According to a statement from the Environment Agency, EWS's services were contracted by Weelight Ltd as an approved authorised treatment facility. The statement added that EWS, which operated out of a warehouse in Birmingham, forged paperwork which detailed

fictitious recycling, and it was this which aroused the suspicions of the Environment Agency's National Investigations Team.

Enforcement Action The brothers were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on 19 December, where Jamil Rehman received a custodial sentence of five years and four months and was disqualified from acting as a company director for 10 years. His brother Saleem, 55, was convicted of theft from a company and received a 16-month custodial sentence suspended for two years

Criminal organisation Summary Company involved
Two brothers from Solihull have been handed prison sentences following an Environment Agency prosecution into a £1.48 million fraud case involving waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). Between January 2011 and December 2012, Jamil Rehman, 56, the sole director at Electronic Waste Specialists (EWS), submitted fictitious claims for the recycling of approximately 10,600 tonnes of electronic waste. The company received payments totalling £1.48 million from producer compliance scheme Weeelight, which was formed by WEEE compliance firm AVC Weeeco Ltd in 2008.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/brothers-jailed-fraud-ea-investigation/>

Case 13. Italy - Bulgaria

Title Concerns over treatment of illegal waste in Bulgaria
Date 13-2-2020
Type of waste plastic, rubber, metal, wood, glass
Quantity/ Value 127 containers
Routes Port of Salerno (near Naples in Italy) to the port of Varna (Bulgaria) and then various storage sites in Bulgaria.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi illegal export of waste
Enforcement Action Repatriation of around 30 containers over 127.
Criminal organisation The Bulgarian authorities are investigating the involvement of the Ndrangheta, a mafia organization in the Calabria region after the seizure last December of large shipments of garbage destined for Bulgaria.
Summary Since October 2019, 127 containers have arrived illegally in the port of Varna, to be sent across the country to various storage sites, illegal landfills or directly incinerated. Last week, Bulgaria returned around 30 of them to the port of Salerno, near Naples. Today there are around a hundred on the docks. If the wastes themselves are not dangerous, their incineration might be. The incineration process is suspended in a power plant as part of the ongoing investigation.
For more information, please visit: [HTTPS://FR.EURONEWS.COM/2020/02/13/EN-BULGARIE-LE-TRAITEMENT-DES-DECHETS-ILLEGAUX-INQUIETE](https://fr.euronews.com/2020/02/13/en-bulgarie-le-traitement-des-dechets-illegaux-inquiete)

Case 14. United Kingdom - Poland

Title	220 tons of 'recycled' waste from Britain is found dumped in a warehouse in Poland: UK taxpayers will pick up bill for it to be returned
Date	10-2-2020
Type of waste	Cardboard, drink caps and other items
Routes	Mixed waste
Quantity/ Value	More than 220 tons
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal storage of waste in warehouses
Criminal organisation	Unknown
Enforcement action	The investigation to determine the exact origin and purpose is still ongoing. Part of the illegal waste from Great Britain is already on the way back
Summary	More than 220 tons of recycled waste from Britain has been found dumped in a warehouse in Poland, and will now be returned at the taxpayers' expense. The mountain of cardboard, drinks packets, aluminium foil, paper and other items painstakingly sorted by Britons to help save the planet was discovered abandoned in Bogaczew, 72miles from the port city of Gdansk.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7987623/220-tons-recycled-waste-Britain-dumped-warehouse-Poland.html https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/poland-220-tonnes-waste/

Case 15. Italy

Title	Operation Old waste - illicit trafficking of waste and tax-related crime
Date	16-2-2020
Type of waste	Metal scraps including crop, iron, aluminium, brass
Routes	Within Italy - Sicily
Quantity/ Value	products / waste for 3.5 million euro
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Fraud mechanism: small entrepreneurs acting at the first level of the 'waste chain' were collecting metal scraps and then transferring them to collection platforms (second level). Fake invoices were issued (amounts were not declared to the tax agency), for higher amounts of products/waste than those effectively treated. This was done to cover the amount of products/waste coming from parallel illicit circuits. The invoices were paid through bank transfers to the first-level actors, who then withdrew the relevant amount of money and brought them back in cash to the collection platforms, keeping only a small amount as a form of 'payment'.
Criminal organisation	15 people under investigation, for illicit trafficking of waste, fake invoices and fake documentation in the field of metal scrap
Enforcement action	5 months of investigation , 2containers seized at port of Genoa + video recording in the warehouses to detect criminal actors
Summary	See Modus Operandi
For more information, please visit:	https://primabrescia.it/cronaca/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-sequestrato-sito-di-stoccaggio-abusivo/

Case 16. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste: seized site of illicit storage
Date	11-2-2020

Type of waste	Hazardous waste including e-waste (monitors, laptops, printers, TVs), tyres, batteries and metal scraps
Routes	Shipments from Italy directed to Ghana and other countries of North Africa
Quantity/ Value	
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illicit transboundary shipment
Criminal organisation	2 citizens, north African origin
Enforcement action	5 months of investigation , 2containers seized airport of Genoa + video recording in the warehouses to detect criminal actors
Summary	Different types of illicit waste (e-waste, tyres, batteries etc.) stored in an open warehouse, periodically charged into containers to be then transferred to north Africa. Double profits: for avoiding costs for sound management of waste and for selling waste in the destination countries. Total lack of security measures at the warehouses.
For more information, please visit:	https://primabrescia.it/cronaca/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-sequestrato-sito-di-stoccaggio-abusivo/

Asia – Europe

Case 17. China, or via Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and Albania to Europe

Title	Illegal Trade in a Greenhouse Gas Rampant in EU
Date	9-4-2019
Type of waste	Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) (Ozone Depleting Substances)
Quantity/Value	10 million tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent HFCs was estimated to be illegally imported in 2015 by a company, more than five percent of the total quota. Scores of reports on illegal HFC use and trade have been made since. EIA analysis of customs data for 2018 indicates that some 16.3 million tonnes of HFCs illegally entered the EU market, about 16 percent of the quota.
Routes	Export from China, or via Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and Albania, import Entry points and hot spots in the EU are located in Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Malta, from where the HFCs are dispersed.
Enforcement Action	According to the EIA there is an urgent need to immediately improve enforcement of the F-gas Regulation, particularly at the EU border level.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The HFCs are then dispersed throughout the EU, including via web-based platforms, including eBay, Facebook and even SMS texting.
Criminal organisation	Unknown
Summary	EU's tight regulations of greenhouse gases seem to have caused an eruption of criminal trade of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), synthetic chemicals hundreds of thousands of times stronger than carbon dioxide and used in many common household products. EIA says reports of illegal (non-quota) HFCs in the EU began to surface as early as 2016, and in spite of significant stockpiling of HFCs in 2014 before the EU regulation went into effect that same year.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/9541-report-illegal-trade-in-a-greenhouse-gas-rampant-in-eu

Annex III: IGO Enforcement Actions

Title	Marine Pollution: thousands of serious offences exposed in global operation
Organisation	INTERPOL, EUROPOL and FRONTEX
Date	16-12-2019
Summary	<p>A global operation led by INTERPOL involving 61 countries and regional law enforcement partners has identified thousands of illicit activities behind severe marine pollution. Codenamed 30 Days at Sea 2.0, the month-long (1-31 October) operation gathered more than 200 enforcement authorities worldwide for concerted action across all continents. Illustrating the severe global extent of marine pollution crime, preliminary operational results have already revealed more than 3,000 offences detected during 17,000 inspections.</p> <p>As part of Operation 30 Days at Sea 2.0, INTERPOL hosted an Operational Command Centre (OCC) in Singapore to focus on the illegal trade in plastic waste, a key threat to marine environment security.</p> <p>The OCC brought key countries together to trigger investigations into cases of illegal export or import of plastic waste. INTERPOL is now working with more than 100 enforcement agencies worldwide on investigations triggered by Operation 30 Days at Sea 2.0. The European leg of 30 Days at Sea 2.0 was coordinated in cooperation with Europol and Frontex - the European Border and Coast Guard Agency</p>
Link	https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/marine-pollution-thousands-of-serious-offences-exposed-in-global-operation

Annex IV: Videos and documentaries

Video	42 arrested in Spain in an operation against waste trafficking
Date	06-02-2020
Organisation	The Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), supported by Europol and the Spanish Central Prosecutor Unit for Environment and Urbanism.
Summary	Video of illicit waste collection in Spain, see also case 4.
Link	https://youtu.be/aEnThqkQStA



WasteForce Crime Alert #6

March- May 2020

Date: 31 May 2020

Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 6

Disclaimer

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The Waste Force project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications, policy updates and relevant videos and documentaries. The Waste Crime Alert is published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #6 summarises information that was published between March and May 2020. The waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the measures that have been implemented had an impact on waste management, the (illegal) trade in waste and the enforcement of waste related legislation. This Waste Crime Alert 6 dedicated a section to articles, reports, webinars and cases related to waste crime and COVID-19. In Section 2, a summary can be found of guidance documents and videos for waste management and enforcement authorities, articles related to the impacts of COVID-19 on waste crime and waste management and cases of illegal trade and disposal of waste related to COVID-19.

Section 3 reports on articles, reports and cases of waste crime not specifically related to COVID-19. Section 4 is an analysis of the crime cases reported in section 2 and 3. In the Annexes more specific information can be found and links to all the reported information.

The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

- Introduction
- Summary of COVID-19 waste crime publications and cases (see also the overview in Annex I):
 1. Guidance documents and videos;
 - Articles related to waste crime and waste management;
 - Cases.
- Summary of waste crime publications and cases (see also the overview in Annex II)
- Analysis of waste crime cases (see also the overview in Annex I and II)

Annex I: COVID-19 – waste crime publications and cases

Annex II: Waste crime publications and cases

Annex III: Destinations of U.S. and U.K. Plastic Waste Exports (from NGO the Beach Cleanup)

In total, this WCA presents in 32 articles/ reports/guidance documents, 18 waste crime cases and 6 videos/webinars.

2. Summary of publications and cases related to COVID-19 and waste crime / enforcement (see for more information also Annex I)

2.1 Guidance documents and videos

Recently, the [European Commission](#) and [IMPEL](#) published guidance documents for waste shipments impacted by COVID-19. The purpose of the document of the European Commission is to ensure a continuation of waste shipments across the EU in the exceptional circumstances created by the coronavirus outbreak. The document provides guidance with the objective to prevent and reduce possible obstacles to cross-border movements of waste within the EU and to facilitate the implementation of EU rules on waste shipments. IMPEL published a review of measures that impact waste shipments. The measures and impacts will be regularly reviewed and updated in the document.

The Basel Convention, International Solid Waste Association, the European Recycling Industries' Confederation and the United Nations Environment Programme published guidance materials about the (environmentally sound) management of (medical) waste. The [Basel Convention](#) published guidance documents on the effective management of biomedical and health-care waste and a factsheet on how to manage medical waste in a sustainable matter. The [International Solid Waste Association](#) published a report with recommendations for waste management during the period of the pandemic of COVID-19. Also, the [European Recycling Industries Confederation](#) published an article about important measures for waste management and recycling during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) referred to a comprehensive Compendium of Technologies for Treatment / Destruction of Healthcare Waste that was published in 2012 and is relevant now with regards to the management of biomedical waste generated from the treatment of COVID-19.

In addition to these documents, the [Basel Convention](#) made a short video on Waste Management during the COVID-19 and the [International Solid Waste Association](#) hosted a webinar in which questions are answered about how waste management companies can respond to challenges of this healthcare crisis. It also posted a video on how to properly dispose of healthcare waste in landfills. The [Europe Latin America Technical Assistance Programme against Transnational Organised Crime](#) organised a Spanish webinar about the exchange of information and new modus operandi of organized crime in the trafficking of sanitary waste and pollution, to prevent environmental crimes. In the webinar Europol presents the existing problems of the management and trafficking of sanitary waste as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the Retrovirus operation launched by Europol and Interpol is presented. Finally, [Ecomondo and Ricicla.tv](#) posted Italian videos about the effects of Covid-19 on recycling activities in Italian municipalities and on the effects of COVID-19 measures on transboundary movements of waste.

2.2 Articles related to impacts on the environment and enforcement of waste crime

Environmental protection agencies in different countries are impacted by measures during the coronavirus outbreak. Due to a lack of capacity, the [Environmental Protection Agency of the United States](#) will put companies in charge of monitoring their own compliance. Environmental groups are concerned that this will give polluters a free pass. In Australia the “omnibus” bill is delayed for more than a year due to the coronavirus outbreak. The “omnibus” bill was supposed to give strong new powers to [the Environmental Protection Agency](#). In Slovenia, [the environmental inspectors](#) and officers have already started to resume controls on transboundary shipments.

The [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#) published an article about the positive and negative impacts of the coronavirus on the environment. There has been a global reduction in factory and road traffic emissions, leading to an increase in air quality. On the other side, attention should be paid to threats to the environment. For example, volumes of unrecyclable waste have risen and cuts in agricultural and fishery export levels have led to the generation of large quantities of organic waste. The [Geneva Environment Network](#) keeps track of articles about the impacts of COVID-19 on the environment.

2.3 Legislation

[Reuters](#) reported that Portugal has suspended waste imports until the end of 2020 to protect domestic landfill capacity, the government said on Saturday (May 16). The country has already blocked 246,000 tonnes of waste from entering since the start of the year, the statement said, and no new imports will be accepted. The country charges 11 euros to process a tonne of waste, considerably below the European average of 80 euros. The coronavirus pandemic has seen an increase in plastic waste in many countries - ranging from medical workers' protective gear such as aprons and gloves to takeaway boxes, as people under lockdown order food to their homes. The government is due to revise its laws on landfills and waste management this summer, as its waste reduction and recycling targets become harder to attain due to the pandemic. Portugal has already limited its recycling efforts for the duration of the pandemic due to concerns over the health risk to workers coming into contact with contaminated plastic waste.

2.4 Summary of cases

Illegal Disposal

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 authorities reported an increase in illegal dumping of waste. In Ireland and England, this covers mainly household waste, local authorities in Ireland noticed dumping has increased with around 25%. In India, companies are illegally disposing medical waste from hospitals. Though the medical waste handling and management rules were revised in 2018, they are hardly followed and in the context of COVID-19 attention has turned towards the illegal disposal of medical waste to avoid costs in incineration.

In Hong Kong, environmental groups noticed cluttering of face masks on the Hong Kong beaches. A huge number of the masks are not disposed of properly, and end up dumped in the countryside or in the sea.

Illegal processing

In Myanmar, an illegal trade started in medical waste equipment. Medical waste is illegally collected and cleaned by garbage disposal workers. The plastic in bags with used syringes, nasal breathing tubes and blood bags are cleaned and sold to manufacturers of plastic pellets who sell the pellets to producers of household goods.

3. Summary of publications and cases of waste crime / enforcement (see for more information also Annex II)

3.1 Publications: [articles](#), [reports](#), [books](#)

Mercury

The [National Committee of the Netherlands \(IUCN\)](#) published a report about the formal and informal global mercury trade. The report summarises imports, trade routes and the supply chain, the main drivers of mercury trade and it provides a set of recommendations. Also [UNEP](#) published a report about the illegal trade in chemicals, including pesticides and mercury. The report highlights knowledge gaps and enforcement challenges related to the regulating trade in toxic, hazardous, and severely restricted chemicals. In discussing the governance and markets of the illegal chemicals and waste trade, the authors review enforcement failures and best practices, and provide recommendations for policymakers, as well as for communities and users of chemicals.

Plastic

An article by the [Istituto Affari Internazionali](#) summarises reports of Greenpeace that assessed the plastic imports and exports following the Chinese import ban. Waste that was originally destined for China was redirected to less-regulated countries, especially in Southeast Asia and to other areas that lack adequate restrictions. A report by Greenpeace Italy showed that in the first 9 months of 2019 nearly half of Italian plastic waste was illegally exported to plants without a permit.

The [European Academies Science Advisory Council](#) published a report about plastics in the circular economy. Packaging plastics can offer an almost infinite range of options for manufacturers, both in terms of function and design. Their durability and resistance to degradation means that if they 'leak' into the environment, they stay there. Leakage has been increasing rapidly and its detrimental impact, especially on the marine environment, has attracted wide public and political concern. Currently, the amount of plastic entering the environment far exceeds that which is recycled, with large quantities being exported from Europe to low and middle-income countries that do not have appropriate disposal or recycling facilities: this "low-cost option" is wholly unethical and unsustainable.

The [Alfred Wegener Institute](#) published a study in which an analysis with infrared microscopes allowed us to gain a solid overview of plastic pollution in the Fram Strait passage between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans. The experts determined that 39 percent of the particles suspended in the water came from polyamide, which is used to produce e.g. fibres for textiles and fishing nets, while nearly a quarter of all particles in the water column were identified as synthetic rubber (ethylene-propylene-diene rubber), an elastic type of plastic used e.g. in automotive and machine-building, as pond liner, for sealing roofs and house fronts, and as filler in artificial turf. In the seafloor sediments, the team primarily found particles made of chlorinated polyethylene (CPE), which is used e.g. in the manufacture of cables, hoses, films and antilock braking systems.

The [Plastic Pollution Coalition and Last Beach Clean-up](#) made an Overview of plastic waste exports from the United States, see also [Annex V](#) for an overview of articles about the United States and United Kingdom waste exports.

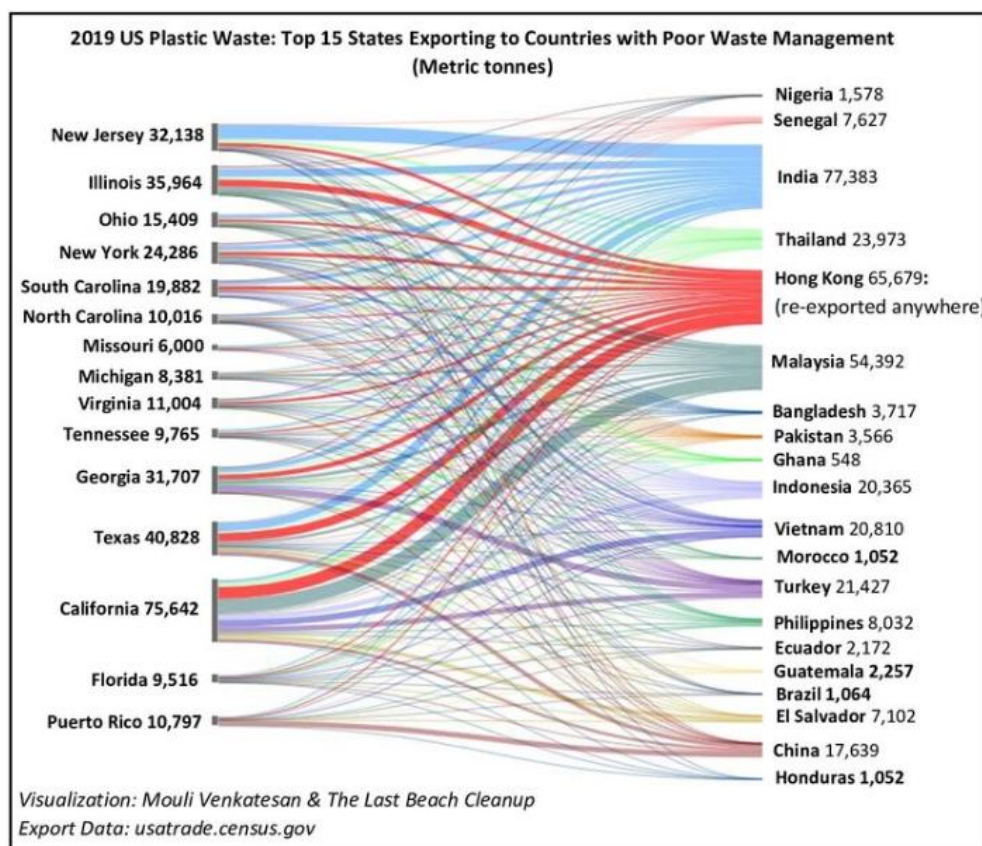


Figure 1: Exports of plastic from the United States, 2019. Source: The Beach Cleanup. <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2020/4/6/why-is-the-us-still-offshoring-post-consumer-plastic-waste-around-the-world>

E-waste

A study by [Toxics Link](#), an environmental research and advocacy non-profit, identified 20 e-waste processing units in Hyderabad, India, operating with impunity without safeguards. There are over 5000 illegal e-waste processing units, employing over 50,000 people.

HFCs (Hydrofluorocarbon)

The [European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee](#) wrote a report about the illegal trade in HFCs into the EU, with information about illegal imports, how to identify illegal imports and measures and actions to help prevent illegal trade in HFCs. There is also an incident reporting system on the website, where illegal activities can be reported.

Illegal Waste trade

Philippines: [Greenpeace](#) published a report about Waste Trade in the Philippines: how local and global policy instruments can stop the tide of foreign waste dumping in the country. This report is a review of waste trade-related policies in the Philippines. It examines how current laws and regulations have fallen short of giving the country adequate protection against the detrimental impacts of waste trade — regardless of whether the importation was illegally or legally fulfilled. The report shows how gaps in current policies and systems allow illegal waste to enter undetected into the country, and how waste, purportedly for recycling, continuously enters our ports — despite the lack of proper recycling facilities, and the absence of stringent monitoring systems to ensure the proper handling of the imported waste. By exposing these gaps, the report calls on the Philippine government to urgently ratify the Basel Ban Amendment, and additionally impose a total comprehensive ban on all waste imports.

Romania: the [NGO Zero Waste](#) is concerned about the increase of waste smuggling in Romania and Bulgaria. There is concern that since China has stopped importing waste, Romania has taken over this role. There are suspicions that the Fieni waste processing plant is illegally processing toxic waste that is illegally imported.

The [WCO and Basel convention](#): made an agreement to cooperate to manage illicit trade in wastes and environmentally-sensitive commodities.

The [European Environmental Bureau](#) published a report called “implement for life: crime and punishment”. This report finds that vague legal definitions and gaps in enforcement allow for crimes to be perpetrated without a suitable punishment. The authors concentrate on three main factors explaining why this is the case: the problems in investigating the guilty parties, corporate liability of environmental crimes and the level of sanctions. There is a chapter on the illegal handling and trade of pesticides and a case study of shipbreaking.

The journal [Sustainability](#) published the paper Understanding the Impacts of Transboundary Waste Shipment Policies: The Case of Plastic and Electronic Waste. This paper is building on the **WasteForce project** deliverable ‘EU and Global Policy Impact Analysis Methodology’, which is led by the University of Limerick in cooperation with the United Nations University. Impact assessment is a part of the policy implementation cycle, which can support the design

and implementation of effective policies at a minimum cost. It can be instrumental in understanding policy options available to tackle a particular issue before devising a policy and in analysing the performance of already implemented policy instruments with respect to the desired goals. When it comes to environmental policies, demonstrating the worth and merit of any regulation is even more important. The knowledge gathered from the evaluation of existing policies can help improve the quality of new environmental policies. This paper analyses policy impacts and their assessments related to the transboundary movement of waste.

Legislation

[Waste Management Review](#) reported that China's National People's Congress Standing Committee passed legislation last week to revise the country's solid waste management policies, even though the government continues to approve imports of recovered fiber. With this legislation China is a step closer to making limitations on importing solid waste from international countries including the US, UK and Australia. According to the Bureau of International Recycling, a Brussels-based global non-profit, the revision passed on April 29 shows that China is moving towards gradually realising zero import of solid waste.

3.2 [Summaries of waste transport inspections](#)

The [German Environment Agency](#) published an overview of illegal waste exports in Germany in 2018 and [the Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning Slovenia](#) published two summaries of transboundary waste shipment inspections. At the Karavanke border between Slovenia and Austria, five shipments of waste were inspected, namely shipments with waste mineral engine oil, liquid combustible waste, waste from flue gas cleaning and mixed waste, in which at least one waste is hazardous (export from Slovenia) and mixed waste containing hazardous waste (shipment in transit from Croatia to Germany). In these five shipments, no irregularities were found. No irregularities were found in the completion of the document from the vehicle identification. There were also six inspections that were carried out at the Šempas rest area, also no major irregularities were found.

4. Analysis of news cases (see [Annex II for more information](#))

This section presents an analysis of a sample of news [cases](#) of transboundary waste movements that took place between March 2020 and May 2020. In total, 18 cases were collected, of which an overview can also be found in Annex I and Annex II.

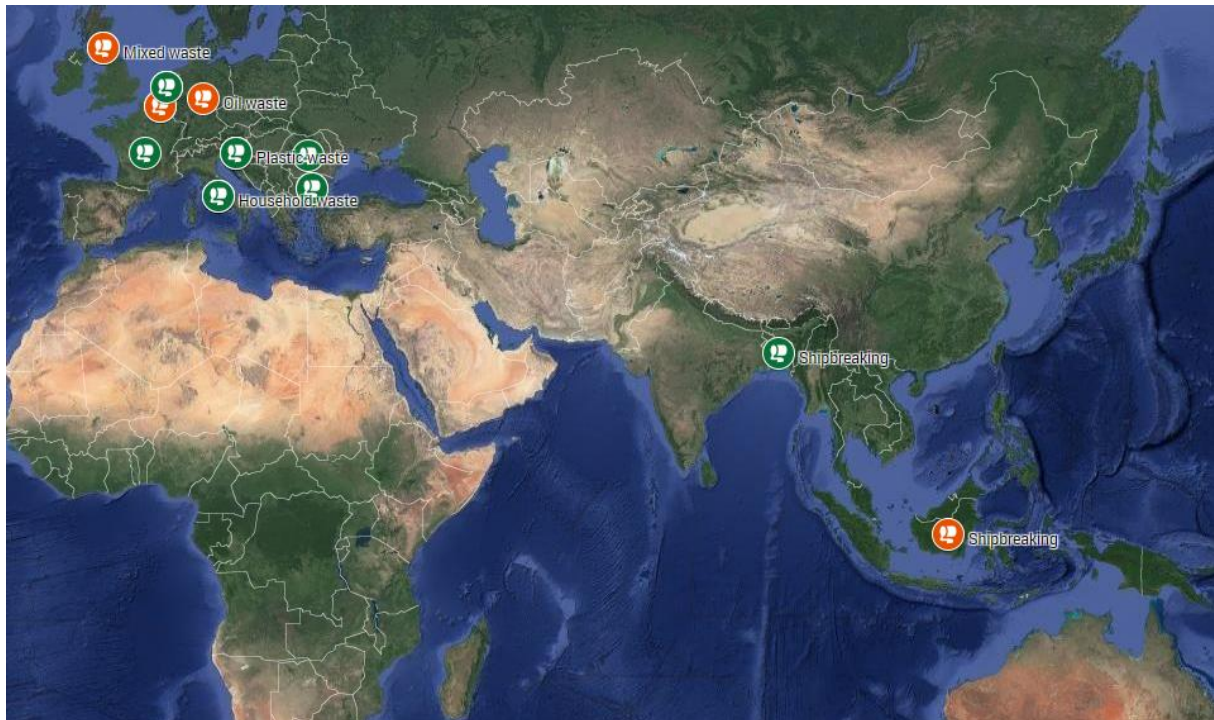




Figure 2: Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the origin or destination country

For more information follow this [Link](#).

-  Origin country or national case
-  Destination country or national case

Types of waste and routes

Types of waste reported	Routes and case numbers
Oil waste	Unreported > Germany (case 6)
	The Netherlands > Unreported (case 9)
E-waste	Italy > African countries (case 17)
Sludge	Belgium > Netherlands (case 10)
Plastic waste	Slovenia > Italy (case 18)
Food waste	The Netherlands (case 11)
Household waste	Belgium > France (case 13)
	Italy > Slovenia (case 14)
	Italy > Slovenia (case 15)
	Ireland (case 1)
	United Kingdom > Bulgaria (case 7)
	United Kingdom > Romania (case 8)
Mixed waste (household, industry, paper, food)	Italy > Bulgaria (case 16)

Shipbreaking	Indonesia > Bangladesh (case 12)
Medical waste	India (case 3)
	Myanmar (case 4)
	Hong Kong (case 5)
Waste (unreported)	England (case 2)

Table 6: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Quantities and values

The quantities of illegal waste are reported in different formats. With regards to illegal imports and exports, 25 containers with each 20 tonnes of mixed waste were exported from the United Kingdom to Bulgaria. From the Netherlands to Belgium 146 tonnes of household waste were exported and illegally disposed. From Italy to Slovenia 8000 kg of household waste was exported, from Italy to Bulgaria 127 containers of mixed waste, of which most have been repatriated and from Italy to African countries 60 tons of special and non-special waste (as well as 1,000 photovoltaic panels and 100 accumulators). From Slovenia to Italy 4,500 tons of plastic waste was illegally exported.

With regards to illegal dumping, in an area in Ireland local dumping increased with 25%. In India it was reported several lorries are dumping waste. In Myanmar there was illegal collection and processing of around 320 kg of medical waste per week. In Hong Kong around 70 face masks were illegally disposed on a 100m beach area, but there is also illegal disposal on the country side. In the Netherlands there was illegal processing of 7000 tonnes of food waste with estimated illegal profits of 4 million euros. A Floating Storage and Offloading (FSO) tanker that is exported to Bangladesh for shipbreaking is estimated to have more than 1500 tons of hazardous waste from the oil extraction process on board, including 1000 tons of slop oil, 500 tons of oily water and 60 tons of sludge oil. Lab results on a sludge sample shared with the Platform reveal mercury levels of 395mg/kg.

Modus operandi

From the seventeen cases there was illegal dumping in 6 cases, illegal processing in 3 cases (including burning of waste), 8 cases of illegal export and 2 cases of illegal storage. More details about the modus operandi can be found in Annex I and Annex II.

Criminal organisations

In most cases companies were reported to be involved in the illegal disposal or exports. In case 17, a criminal organization was involved that was composed by a number of corrupted officers, including customs officers, health professionals, carriers and workers of companies operating in the port of Salerno.

Enforcement action

In case 18, there was a special use of technology, the police and financial authorities used drones to film a number of waste transports. After the start of the investigation, the police and

the financial department monitored all the routes of the carriers, from the entrance to Italy to the waste warehouse.

Annex I: COVID-19 - waste crime publications and cases

Guidance documents for Enforcement Authorities related to COVID-19

Title	Shipments of waste in the EU in the context of the Coronavirus crisis
Organisation	European Commission
Date	30-3-2020
Summary	The purpose of this document is to ensure a common approach to securing the continuation of waste shipments across the EU while maintaining a high level of protection of public health and the environment in the exceptional circumstances created by the Coronavirus outbreak. Based on identified best practices, and in line with the legal framework in place, this document provides guidance to the competent authorities in the Member States, economic operators and all relevant stakeholders with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent and reduce possible obstacles to cross-border movements of waste within the EU, and • facilitate the implementation of EU rules on waste shipments.
Link	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/pdf/waste_shipment_and_COVID19.pdf

Title	Impact of COVID-19 on WSR documents
Organisation	IMPEL
Date	31-3-2020
Summary	Update and review of measures that impact waste shipments. A good example of this is the implementation of temporary measures so that the impacts on the movement of waste shipments are limited. These processes will be reviewed and updated regularly as the situation progresses.
Link	https://www.impel.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Impact-of-COVID19-on-WSR-documents-1.pdf

Guidance documents for waste management

Title	Waste management an essential public service in the fight to beat COVID-19
Organisation	Basel Convention
Date	20-3-2020
Summary	The Basel Convention guidance documents on the effective management of biomedical and health-care waste
Link	http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PublicAwareness/PressReleases/WastemanagementandCOVID19/tabid/8376/Default.aspx

Title	Waste Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic: ISWA's Recommendations
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Organisation International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)
Date 8-4-2020
Summary Report with recommendations for waste management during the period of the pandemic of COVID 19.
Link https://www.iswa.org/fileadmin/galleries/0001_COVID/ISWA_Waste_Management_During_COVID-19.pdf

Title **COVID19: Factsheet on Environmentally Sound Management of Medical Waste**
Organisation Basel Convention
Date April 2020
Summary A Basel Convention's guidance document on how to manage medical waste in the most sustainable manner.
Link <http://www.brsmeas.org/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-PUB-Factsheets-Healthcare-MedicalWaste-2020.English.pdf>

Title **Compendium of Technologies for Treatment / Destruction of Healthcare Waste**
Organisation United Nations Environment Programme
Date 2012
Summary UNEP Compendium of Technologies for Treatment / Destruction of Healthcare Waste
Link https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/8628/IETC_Compndium_Technologies_Treatment_Destruction_Healthcare_Waste.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

Title **Covid-19: The impact for the waste management & recycling industry**
Organisation European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)
Date 25-3-2020
Summary The article describes important measures for waste management and recycling during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link <https://recyclingportal.eu/Archive/55082>

Guidance videos and webinars

Title **A short video on Waste Management during the COVID 19**
Organisation Basel Convention
Date 23-3-2020
Summary This is a short video prepared by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific located in China, and in light of the exceptional circumstances currently being faced by many countries due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Cx1XhCKuqM>

Title **ISWA COVID-19 ROUNDTABLE WEBINAR**
Organisation International Solid Waste Association
Date 29-4-2020
Summary ISWA held its first in a series of COVID-19 themed webinars on the 29th of April 2020. The webinar series will focus on answering questions about how Waste Management can and is responding to the challenges of this healthcare crisis.
Link <https://youtu.be/v3OfBWNDnbl>

Title **How to dispose of healthcare waste in landfills**
Organisation International Solid Waste Association
Date March-2020
Summary During the pandemic, many countries are classifying all hospital waste as infectious, overloading the current capacity for safe disposal. Also, in many developing countries the only solution available is to dispose of healthcare waste in landfills or to store it temporarily. ISWA President Antonis Mavropoulos talks about how to properly dispose of waste in landfills during the crisis.
Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1FAb6l9vn4&feature=youtu.be>

Title **Waste, recycling and Covid-19 (Italian)**
Organisation Ecomondo / Ricicla.tv
Date 11-4-2020
Summary Effects of Covid-19: plastics (and other waste streams) recycling plants already saturated as a consequence of the blocking of recycling activities in Italian municipalities during the 2-months lockdown.
Link <https://www.facebook.com/EcomondoRimini/videos/232282121474844/>

Title **Waste and Covid-19, a focus on transboundary movement (Italian)**
Organisation Ricicla.tv
Date 16-4-2020
Summary At the beginning of March with the lockdown a number of countries adopted strict measures with Italian transporters (eg. Germany, Slovenia) to block waste transport outside the country. After the intervention of the EC and IT Gov some countries loose the restrictions, while others such as Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic still blocked waste movements from Italy. Italy is still relying too much on external transportation for waste treatment, instead of internal treatment encouraging a sustainable cycle. Guidelines on waste managed were published by the EC. Recycling companies required urgent interventions to the Gov to support essential services and measures for circular economy. The Covid-19 emergency should give the right incentives for the transformation of our societies / economies to more circular and sustainable models.
Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuvGxKKoYb0>

Articles related to waste crime enforcement and COVID-19

Title **UNEP Adds to Calls for Governments to Consider Waste Management an Essential Service**
Organisation UNEP
Date 26-3-2020
Summary Article stating that UN Environment has joined many other voices in calling for governments to treat waste management, including of medical, household and other hazardous waste, as an urgent and essential public service in order to minimise possible secondary impacts upon health and the environment.
Link <https://waste-management-world.com/a/unep-adds-to-calls-for-governments-to-consider-waste-management-an-essential-service>

Title	EPA to limit enforcement of environmental laws during coronavirus emergency, giving companies more flexibility
Organisation	Environmental Protection Agency United States
Date	27-3-2020
Summary	Due to staff shortages, companies will be put in charge of monitoring their own compliance. There will still be enforcement of criminal violations. Environmental groups accused the agency of giving polluters a free pass because of the pandemic, saying that without federal oversight companies could skimp on recording information on releases of air or water pollution.
Link	https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/epa-limit-enforcement-environmental-laws-coronavirus-emergency-giving/story?id=69837624
Title	New EPA powers delayed by a year in coronavirus 'omnibus' bill
Organisation	Environmental Protection Agency Australia
Date	5-5-2020
Summary	Strong new powers promised to the environment watchdog have been delayed by more than a year, sparking fears cowboy companies will persist with unsafe management of toxic waste. The new laws to beef up the Environment Protection Authority's power to crackdown on environmental offenders and tough penalties for polluters were due to come into effect in July this year. But the introduction has been delayed a further 12 months as part of the "omnibus" coronavirus legislation the state government passed in an emergency sitting of State Parliament last month.
Link	https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/new-epa-powers-delayed-by-a-year-in-coronavirus-omnibus-bill-20200505-p54q2d.html
Title	Environmental inspectors and police officers have resumed controls on transboundary shipments of waste
Organisation	Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning Slovenia
Date	5-5-2020
Summary	Environmental inspectors of the Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning carried out a control action on cross-border shipments of waste at the Log Brezovica motorway checkpoint, in cooperation with representatives of the Police. This was the first joint action since the declaration of the COVID-19 epidemic. During the control four waste shipments were controlled, no irregularities were found.
Link	https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-05-05-inspektorji-za-okolje-in-policisti-ponovno-zaceli-izvajati-nadzore-cezmejnega-posiljanja-odpadkov/
Title	Portugal suspends foreign trash imports to cope with own increased waste
Organisation	CNA
Date	08-01-2020
Summary	Portugal, which usually attracts huge mounds of rubbish from other European states because of its low waste management fees, has suspended imports of trash until the end of 2020 to protect domestic landfill capacity, the government said on Saturday (May 16). The country has already blocked 246,000 tonnes of trash from entering since the start of the year, the statement said, and no new imports will be accepted. The country charges 11 euros to process a tonne of trash, considerably below the European average of 80 euros. The coronavirus pandemic has seen an increase in plastic waste in many countries - ranging from medical workers' protective gear such

as aprons and gloves to takeaway boxes, as people under lockdown order food to their homes. The government is due to revise its laws on landfills and waste management this summer, as its waste reduction and recycling targets become harder to attain due to the pandemic. Portugal has already limited its recycling efforts for the duration of the pandemic due to concerns over the health risk to workers coming into contact with contaminated plastic waste.

Link

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-portugal-trash/portugal-suspends-foreign-trash-imports-to-cope-with-own-increased-waste-idINKBN22S0OJ>

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/portugal-suspends-foreign-trash-imports-to-cope-with-own-increased-waste-12739522>

Articles about impacts of COVID-19 the environment

Title Environmental impacts of coronavirus crisis, challenges ahead

Organisation United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Date 20-4-2020

Summary The article lists some of the positive and negative impacts of the coronavirus: air quality levels in the world's major cities improved dramatically, because of a reduction in factory and road traffic emissions. Global air traffic dropped by 60%. At the same time volumes of unrecyclable waste have risen and cuts in agricultural and fishery export levels have led to the generation of large quantities of organic waste. Attention must be given to threats on the environment and natural resource bases as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and consequential social and economic impacts.

Link

<https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2333>

Title Latest updates COVID19 and the environment

Organisation Geneva Environment Network

Date 18-5-2020

Summary Overview of websites with information about COVID 19 and the environment divided by topic

Link

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/covid19.html>

Cases**Case 1. Ireland**

Title 'Worrying increase' in illegal dumping during Covid-19 pandemic

Date 17-4-2020

Type of waste Household waste

Quantity/Value illegal dumping has increased 25% in the last number of weeks. The local authority had collected around two tonnes of waste in about ten days.

Routes NA

Type of crimes/ Modus operandi Illegal dumping

Operandi

Enforcement Action Unreported

Action

Criminal organisation Unknown

Summary Local authorities across the country are reporting a "worrying increase" in illegal dumping since the outbreak of Covid-19. The ongoing restrictions have led many to clean out their houses and sheds with some unscrupulous offenders dumping their waste illegally. Louth County Council estimates that illegal dumping has increased 25% in the last number of weeks.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.rte.ie/news/coronavirus/2020/0417/1132025-illegal-dumping-covid19/>

Case 2. England

Title Investigation launched into 'outrageous, industrial-scale' fly-tip in Ashfield
Date 17-4-2020
Type of waste Different types of waste
Quantity/Value Unreported
Routes NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal dumping
Enforcement Action Investigation is ongoing
Criminal organisation Unreported
Summary Ashfield District Council is investigating "one of the largest environmental incidents seen in the district", after a huge amount of waste was dumped close to Brierley Forest Park in Huthwaite. It was added that there is an amount of excess waste because of the lockdown related to the coronavirus.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.chad.co.uk/news/environment/investigation-launched-outrageous-industrial-scale-fly-tip-ashfield-2542088>

Case 3. India

Title Handling medical waste amid pandemic
Date 16-3-2020
Type of waste Biomedical waste
Quantity/Value Several lorries were dumping medical waste
Routes The medical waste was illegally disposed in Tamil Nadu and in Karnataka
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal dumping: while the medical waste handling and management rules were revised in 2018, they are hardly followed. Now, in the context of COVID-19, attention has turned towards illegal disposal of medical waste. Hospitals are supposed to attach themselves with the nearest incinerator and send their medical waste there in colour-coded bags. The information about quantity of waste generated and the incinerator where it goes are supposed to be made public, through the pollution control board website. But to avoid the cost of incineration, many hospitals send only a portion of their waste to such facilities that are illicitly disposing the waste.
Enforcement Action Unreported

Criminal organisation	Hospitals send their waste to facilities that dump it to avoid the cost of incineration. It is also because of the high cost of waste treatment, lack of accountability and proper monitoring mechanisms.
Summary	Due to COVID-19 there is not enough capacity to handle the biomedical waste from hospitals and the waste is illegally dumped.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/editorials/2020/mar/16/handling-medical-waste-amid-pandemic-2117236.html

Case 4. Myanmar

Title	Myanmar's illegal trade in medical waste poses coronavirus risk
Date	2-4-2020
Type of waste	Medical waste
Quantity/Value	A plastics trader in Insein township told Myanmar Now they buy more than 700 pounds (317kg) of medical waste a week from YCDC garbage collectors in Yangon, Mandalay, Kyaukse and Pathein.
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal collection of medical waste sold as household goods.
Enforcement Action	Enforcement Actions are not reported, but the improper disposal of hazardous waste is punishable by up to three months in prison and fines up to 500,000 kyat under YCDC bylaws.
Criminal organisation	Informal garbage collectors are cleaning the waste and sell it to traders.
Summary	Medical waste is illegally collected and cleaned by garbage disposal workers. The plastic in bags with used syringes, nasal breathing tubes and blood bags are cleaned and sold to manufacturers of plastic pellets who sell the pellets to producers of household goods.
For more information, please visit:	https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/myanmars-illegal-trade-in-medical-waste-poses-coronavirus-risk

Case 5. Hong Kong

Title	Discarded coronavirus masks clutter Hong Kong's beaches, trails
Date	12-3-2020
Type of waste	Medical waste
Quantity/Value	The founder of the environmental group Oceans Asia found 70 discarded masks on 100 m stretch of beach and when he came back a week later, there were more than 30 new ones.
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal disposal
Enforcement Action	Unreported

Criminal organisation	NA
Summary	Most of Hong Kong's 7.4 million people have for weeks been putting on single-use face masks every day in the hope of warding off the coronavirus, which has infected 126 people in the city and killed three of them. But huge numbers of the masks are not disposed of properly, and have instead ended up dumped in the countryside or the sea, where marine life can mistake them for food, washing up on beaches along with the usual plastic bags and other trash.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-hongkong-environme/discarded-coronavirus-masks-clutter-hong-kongs-beaches-trails-idUSKBN20Z0PP

Annex II: Waste crime publications and cases

News articles

Title	Cooperation with Basel Convention to manage illicit trade in wastes and environmentally-sensitive commodities
Organisation	WCO and Basel Convention
Type of waste	All waste
Date	25-2-2020
Summary	Outcomes of the 40th enforcement committee meeting of WCO: agreement on cooperation between the Basel Convention and WCO.
Link	https://www.marketscreener.com/news/Cooperation-with-Basel-Convention-to-manage-illicit-trade-in-wastes-and-environmentally-sensitive-co--30060614/
Title	Activists concerned over increase in waste smuggling in Romania
Organisation	NGO Zero Waste, Euractiv
Type of waste	All waste
Date	12-4-2020
Summary	Activists (the NGO Zero Waste) are concerned about the increase of waste smuggling in Romania and Bulgaria. There is concern since that China has stopped importing waste, Romania has taken over this role. There are suspicions that the Fieni plant is illegally processing toxic waste that is illegally imported.
Link	https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/activists-concerned-over-increase-in-waste-smuggling-in-romania/
Title	Case C-654/18. Request for a preliminary ruling — Environment — Waste — Transport of waste within the European Union — Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 — Classification of mixture of paper wastes — Basel Convention — Control procedure applied to 'Green' listed waste — Classification of mixture of paper wastes containing impurities)
Organisation	Administrative Court, Stuttgart, Germany
Type of waste	Classification of mixture of paper wastes containing impurities)
Date	30-1-2020

- Summary** By this request for a preliminary ruling the Verwaltungsgericht (Administrative Court, Stuttgart, Germany) seeks guidance on the interpretation of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste. (2) It wishes to ascertain whether a waste stream composed principally of paper products should be categorised as so-called 'green' waste and therefore subject to the flexible control procedure provided in that regulation. The referring court also asks whether such waste can still be categorised as 'green' if it contains up to 10% impurities.
- Link** <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=222897&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=436174>
- Title** **About 50000 Workers Face Serious Health Issues In 'Illegal E-Waste Companies' In Hyderabad**
- Organisation** Toxics Link
- Type of waste** E-waste
- Date** 13-3-2020
- Summary** A study by Toxics Link, an environmental research and advocacy non-profit identified 20 e-waste processing units in Hyderabad operating with impunity without safeguards. There are over 5000 illegal e-waste processing units, employing over 50,000 people.
- Link** <http://www.hydnnews.net/about-50000-workers-face-serious-health-issues-in-illegal-e-waste-companies-in-hyderabad/>
- Title** **Illegal Trafficking of Plastic Waste: The Italy–Malaysia Connection**
- Organisation** Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
- Type of waste** Plastic waste
- Date** 2-4-2020
- Summary** This articles summarises reports of Greenpeace that assessed the plastic imports and exports following the Chinese import ban. Waste that was originally destined for China was redirected to less-regulated countries, especially in Southeast Asia and to other areas that lack adequate restrictions. A report by Greenpeace Italy showed that in the first 9 months of 2019 nearly half of Italian plastic waste was illegally exported to plants without a permit.
- Link** <https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/iaicom2016.pdf>
- Title** **No 'Away': Why is the U.S. Still Offshoring Plastic Waste Around the World?**
- Organisation** Plastic Pollution Coalition & Last Beach Cleanup
- Type of waste** Plastic
- Date** 07-04-2020
- Summary** Overview of plastic waste exports from the United States, see also [Annex V](#) for an overview of articles about the United States and United Kingdom waste exports.
- Link** <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2020/4/6/why-is-the-us-still-offshoring-post-consumer-plastic-waste-around-the-world>
<https://www.lastbeachcleanup.org/plastic-waste-exports>
- Title** **China moves towards zero import of solid waste**
- Organisation** Waste Management Review
- Type of waste** All waste
- Date** 8-5-2020

Summary China is a step closer to making limitations on importing solid waste from international countries including the US, UK and Australia. China's National People's Congress Standing Committee passed legislation last week to revise the country's solid waste management policies, even though the government continues to approve imports of recovered fiber. According to the Bureau of International Recycling, a Brussels-based global nonprofit, the revision passed on April 29 shows that China is moving towards gradually realising zero import of solid waste.

Link <https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/china-moves-towards-zero-import-of-solid-waste/>

Reports, books, papers

Title **Opening the black box: local insights into the formal and informal global mercury trade revealed**

Organisation IUCN

Type of waste Mercury

Date 14-4-2020

Summary Report about the formal and informal mercury trade. The report summarises imports, trade routes and the supply chain, the main drivers of mercury trade and it provides a set of recommendations.

Link https://www.iucn.nl/files/groene_economie/lr_mercury_brochure_digitale_gebruik.pdf
https://www.iucn.nl/en/updates/iucn-nl-sheds-light-on-the-formal-and-informal-mercury-trade?utm_medium=email&utm_source=nieuwsbrief&utm_campaign=mercury

Title **Implement for Life: Crime and Punishment**

Organisation European Environmental Bureau

Type of waste General waste

Date 2-3-2020

Summary This report finds that vague legal definitions and gaps in enforcement allow for crimes to be perpetrated without a suitable punishment. The authors concentrate on three main factors explaining why this is the case: the problems in investigating the guilty parties, corporate liability of environmental crimes and the level of sanctions. There is a chapter on the illegal handling and trade of pesticides and a case study of shipbreaking.

Link <https://mk0eeborgicuytuf7e.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Crime-and-punishment-March-2020.pdf>

Title **Illegal Imports of HFCs into the EU: Why Now? & Actions to Identify, Detect, Prevent, Penalise, Prosecute**

Organisation European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee

Type of waste Ozone Depleting Substances

Date 14-8-2019

Summary The EFCTC wrote a report about the illegal trade in HFCs into the EU, with information about illegal imports, how to identify illegal imports and measures and actions to help prevent illegal trade in HFCs. There is also an incident reporting system on the website, where illegal activities can be reported.

Link	https://www.fluorocarbons.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-08-14-EFCTC-Illegal-Trade-of-HFCs-Why.pdf
Title	Understanding the Impacts of Transboundary Waste Shipment Policies: The Case of Plastic and Electronic Waste
Organisation	Journal: Sustainability
Date	2-4-2020
Type of waste	Case studies on plastic and e-waste
Summary	This paper is building on the WasteForce project deliverable 'EU and Global Policy Impact Analysis Methodology', which is led by the University of Limerick in cooperation with the United Nations University. Impact assessment is a part of the policy implementation cycle, which can support the design and implementation of effective policies at a minimum cost. It can be instrumental in understanding policy options available to tackle a particular issue before devising a policy and in analysing the performance of already implemented policy instruments with respect to the desired goals. When it comes to environmental policies, demonstrating the worth and merit of any regulation is even more important. The knowledge gathered from the evaluation of existing policies can help improve the quality of new environmental policies. This paper analyses policy impacts and their assessments related to the transboundary movement of waste.
Link	https://www.wasteforceproject.eu/paper-understanding-the-impacts-of-transboundary-waste-shipment-policies-the-case-of-plastic-and-electronic-waste/
Title	Packaging plastics in the circular economy
Organisation	European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
Date	11-2-2020
Type of waste	Plastic
Summary	Packaging plastics can offer an almost infinite range of options for manufacturers, both in terms of function and design. Their durability and resistance to degradation means that if they 'leak' into the environment, they stay there. Leakage has been increasing rapidly and its detrimental impact, especially on the marine environment, has attracted wide public and political concern. Currently, the amount of plastic entering the environment far exceeds that which is recycled, with large quantities being exported from Europe to low and middle-income countries that do not have appropriate disposal or recycling facilities: this "low-cost option" is wholly unethical and unsustainable.
Link	https://easac.eu/fileadmin/PDF_s/reports_statements/Plastics/EASAC_Plastics_Web_complete_6May2020_FINAL.pdf
Title	UNEP Exposes Fight Against Illegal Trade in Pesticides, Mercury
Organisation	UNEP
Type of waste	Chemicals: pesticides, mercury
Date	21-4-2020
Summary	The illegal trade of chemicals is the subject of a report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), which highlights knowledge gaps and enforcement challenges

related to the regulating trade in toxic, hazardous, and severely restricted chemicals. The report titled, 'The Illegal Trade in Chemicals,' was released on 1 April 2020. In discussing the governance and markets of the illegal chemicals and waste trade, the authors review enforcement failures and best practices, and provide recommendations for policymakers, as well as for communities and users of chemicals.

Link <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unep-exposes-fight-against-illegal-trade-in-pesticides-mercury/>

Title **Waste Trade in the Philippines: how local and global policy instruments can stop the tide of foreign waste dumping in the country**

Organisation Greenpeace

Type of waste All waste

Date 1-3-2020

Summary This report is a review of waste trade-related policies in the Philippines. It examines how current laws and regulations have fallen short of giving the country adequate protection against the detrimental impacts of waste trade—regardless of whether the importation was illegally or legally fulfilled. The report shows how gaps in current policies and systems allow illegal waste to enter undetected into the country, and how waste, purportedly for recycling, continuously enters our ports—despite the lack of proper recycling facilities, and the absence of stringent monitoring systems to ensure the proper handling of the imported waste. By exposing these gaps, the report calls on the Philippine government to urgently ratify the Basel Ban Amendment, and additionally impose a total comprehensive ban on all waste imports.

Link <https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-philippines-stateless/2020/03/d11386c3-waste-trade-in-the-philippines-report-s.pdf>

Title **Seafloor of Fram Strait is a sink for microplastic from Arctic and North Atlantic Ocean**

Organisation Alfred Wegener Institute

Type of waste Plastic

Date 27-03-2020

Summary "The study offers an important snapshot in which analyses with infrared microscopes allowed us to gain a solid overview of plastic pollution in Fram Strait," says Gunnar Gerdts, an AWI microbiologist and Head of the Microplastic Analysis Group. The experts determined that 39 percent of the particles suspended in the water came from polyamide, which is used to produce e.g. fibres for textiles and fishing nets, while nearly a quarter of all particles in the water column were identified as synthetic rubber (ethylene-propylene-diene rubber), an elastic type of plastic used e.g. in automotive and machine-building, as pond liner, for sealing roofs and house fronts, and as filler in artificial turf. In the seafloor sediments, the team primarily found particles made of chlorinated polyethylene (CPE), which is used e.g. in the manufacture of cables, hoses, films and antilock braking systems (ABS).

Link <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200327141517.htm#>

Summaries of waste transport inspections

Title	Prosecution of illegal waste shipments in 2018 Germany
Organisation	German Environment Agency (UBA)
Date	10-1-2020
Summary	An overview of the illegal waste exports in Germany in 2018 (in German).
Link	https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/2503/dokumente/verfolgung_der_illegalen_abfallverbringung_2018.pdf
Title	Control of cross-border shipments of waste at the Karavanke border crossing
Organisation	Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning Slovenia
Date	12-5-2020
Summary	As part of the campaign, five shipments of waste were inspected, namely shipments with waste mineral engine oil, liquid combustible waste, waste from flue gas cleaning and mixed waste, in which at least one waste is hazardous (export from Slovenia) and mixed waste containing hazardous waste (shipment in transit from Croatia to Germany). In none of these five shipments, no irregularities were found. Waste was sent after previously obtained consents, shipments were accompanied by properly completed transport documents, waste vehicles were properly marked. Even in the case of a shipment of waste sent from Slovenia to Austria with a document from Annex VII (non-hazardous waste), no irregularities were found in the completion of the document from the vehicle identification. The campaign was carried out as part of the Life + project SWEAP.
Link	https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-05-12-nadzor-cezmejnegaposiljanjaodpadkovnamejnemprehodu-karavanke-42304/
Title	Summary of inspections of transboundary waste movements
Organisation	Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning Slovenia
Date	16-2-2020
Summary	Summary of inspections of transboundary waste movements: Six inspections were carried out at the Šempas rest area and there were no major irregularities. Furs fined the driver of the vehicle, who had a prescribed sign for transporting waste only on the back and not on the front. In Obrežje, two out of six inspected shipments were found to be illegal shipments of waste. The truck did not transport waste wood chips from Croatia to Slovenia, as the documents showed, but a mixture of waste wood and other waste. He did not have the consent to do so. The shipment went back to Croatia, and the inspection procedure at the Slovenian company is still ongoing, the environmental inspectorate said. Pieces of plastic and ceramics were mixed among the waste iron particles sent from Slovenia to Croatia, so the inspectors sent the shipment back to the plant, where the inspection procedure has not yet been completed. In the port of Koper, representatives of the Environmental Inspectorate and Furs opened four shipping containers and detained three due to inadequate documentation. Until the submission of the relevant documentation, shipments of slag from Hungary to Pakistan, a shipment of waste referred to as "propene polymers" sent for processing from Slovenia to Turkey and a shipment of baled transparent waste foil, partly contaminated, sent for processing from Slovenia to

Malaysia will be waiting. , "They listed at the Environmental Inspectorate, where they are announcing new joint control actions with Furs and the police.

Link <https://www.primorske.si/slovenija/stikali-po-cezmejih-odpadkih>

Cases

Case 6. Germany

Title **Germany: Police Discovers Illegal Oily Waste on Cargo Ship**
Date 6-3-2020
Type of waste Oily waste
Quantity/ Value Approximately 300 liters of oily waste
Routes A Barbados flagged ship in Bremen, Germany
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal storage
Enforcement Action A 45-year old ship's engineer has been found responsible. He has been ordered to pay a security deposit of EUR 1,900 (USD 2,140). In addition, a criminal charge due to illegal waste handling has been filed. The unnamed ship will be allowed to leave the port when it fixes the deficiencies, according to the police.
Criminal organisation A 45-year old ship's engineer has been found responsible.
Summary Authorities in Germany have discovered an illegally stored oily waste on board a Barbados-flagged cargo ship docked in Bremerhaven.
For more information, please visit: <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/germany-police-discovers-illegal-oily-waste-on-cargo-ship/>

Case 7. United Kingdom - Bulgaria

Title **Balkan Blog: A poor solution to waste disposal**
Date 17-3-2020
Type of waste Plastic, household waste
Quantity/Value 25 containers with each 20 tonnes of waste
Routes United Kingdom to Bulgaria
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal burning
Enforcement Action The burning was allowed by authorities, but NGOs have filed a claim with the European Commission
Criminal organisation Unreported
Summary In March there was air pollution cause by power plants illegally burning waste illegally imported from the United Kingdom.
For more information, please visit: <https://www.intellinews.com/balkan-blog-a-poor-solution-to-waste-disposal-178597/>

Case 8. United Kingdom - Romania

Title **Illegal waste from countries including UK to blame for air pollution in Bucharest, says Romania minister**

Date	4-3-2020
Type of waste	Waste disguised as household items
Quantity/Value	
Routes	From the United Kingdom to Romania
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export and illegal incineration
Enforcement Action	Police investigation found air pollution came from waste illegally imported from the UK. They are investigation waste collection companies that collect from the port of Constanta.
Criminal organisation	At least one recycling company in the UK
Summary	The United Kingdom is illegally shipping waste to Romania disguised as household items, that are illegally burned.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/04/illegal-waste-countries-including-uk-blame-air-pollution-bucharest/

Case 9. The Netherlands

Title	Illegal shipment of Used Cooking Oil (UCO)
Date	27-3-2020
Type of waste	Used Cooking Oil
Quantity/ Value	28.700 kg
Routes	From the Netherlands to an unknown destination
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	The court found the suspect guilty of not providing adequate documentation with the export of the shipment. The suspect will get a fine of €2,000.
Criminal organisation	Company
Summary	Shipping of 28.700 kg UCO from the Netherlands to unknown destination. The waste was accompanied by the right shipping documents. Issues arose when the receiver refused and returned the waste. Despite the unclearness in the regulation the suspect (the waste exporter) was held responsible for the traceability of the returned waste.
For more information, please visit:	HTTPS://UITSPRAKEN.RECHTSPRAAK.NL/INZIENDOCUMENT?ID=ECLI%3ANL%3AGHARL%3A2020%3A2539&SHOWBUTTON=TRUE

Case 10. Belgium – the Netherlands

Title	Illegal export of sludge
Date	12-2-2020
Type of waste	Sludge
Routes	From Belgium to the Netherlands
Quantity/ Value	30.000m ²
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Criminal organisation	A company

Enforcement action Summary The court ruled that the sludge must be removed from the storage, €10,000 must be paid for each day that the sludge is not removed.

Transfer from Belgium into the Netherlands of 30.000m2 sludge. The receiving party refused the waste and then agreed to dispose the waste temporarily in a storage of the Dutch company, but after one month the sludge has not been removed yet. The court ruled that the sludge must be removed by the Belgium company, otherwise fines must be paid.

For more information, please visit: <https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:RBMNE:2020:393>

Case 11. The Netherlands

Title Illegal processing of residual food waste

Date 5-2-2020

Type of waste Residual food waste

Routes NA

Quantity/ Value 7000 tonnes, illegal profits of 4 million euros

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal processing: a company collected residual waste from food businesses and transformed it to animal feed

Criminal organisation A company

Enforcement action The investigation is ongoing

Summary A company collected residual waste from food businesses and transformed it to animal feed

For more information, please visit: <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/02/05/politie-houdt-3-verdachten-aan-voor-stelselmatig-omkatten-veevoer>

Case 12. Indonesia - Bangladesh

Title NGOs urge Bangladesh authorities to halt the import of a highly toxic offshore unit that illegally departed from Indonesia

Date 29-4-2020

Type of waste Shipbreaking: hazardous waste, slop oil, sludge, mercury

Routes From Indonesia to Bangladesh

Quantity/ Value More than 1500 tons of hazardous waste from the oil extraction process onboard, including 1000 tons of slop oil, 500 tons of oily water and 60 tons of sludge oil. Lab results on a sludge sample shared with the Platform reveal mercury levels of 395mg/kg.

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal export

Criminal organisation The vessel was owned by an Indonesian company, but recently sold to a company specialised in trading end-of-life vessels to beaching yards

Enforcement action NGOs urged Bangladesh authorities to halt the import of the offshore unit

Summary The Floating Storage and Offloading (FSO) tanker J. NAT is currently being towed towards the infamous shipbreaking beach of Chattogram. The FSO J. NAT left Indonesian waters on 18 April even though local activists warned Indonesian

authorities about the toxicity of the vessel. Given the likely high concentrations of mercury in the steel hull of the FSO J. NAT and the blow torch method used to cut vessels, there is a high risk of inhalation of mercury vapour.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.shipbreakingplatform.org/fso-jesslyn-natuna/>

Case 13. Belgium- France

Title Belgian trucks illegally dump tons of waste in a French village
Date 24-2-2020
Type of waste Household waste and construction waste
Quantity/Value The waste disposal site is already 200 tons heavy. In 2017, 7 tons of waste was reported to be illegally exported and in 2018, 139 tonnes.
Routes From Brecht in Belgium to the French village Redange.
Enforcement Action The truck drivers informed the police. Action is not reported in the article.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal disposal
Criminal organisation Companies
Summary A Belgium company was ordered to dump the waste by another company.
For more information, please visit: <https://www.lesoir.be/282531/article/2020-02-24/des-camions-belges-deversent-illegalement-des-tonnes-de-dechets-dans-un-village>
<https://www.hln.be/nieuws/buitenland/dorpje-net-over-franse-grens-verzuipt-in-belgisch-illegaal-gedumpt-afval-a3613c8d/?referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>

Case 14. Italy-Slovenia

Title **Waste straight to the Risnik landslide instead of to the landfill**
Date 26-3-2020
Type of waste household waste
Quantity/Value 60 cubic meters of waste
Routes Italy to Slovenia
Enforcement Action NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal disposal
Criminal organisation Unknown
Summary Right next to the Risnik landslide in Divača, someone dumped large piles of waste. The municipality of Divača estimates that there are about 60 cubic meters of remains that would otherwise have to go to a landfill or incinerator. It is suspect that they were imported from Italy.
For more information, please visit: http://e-clip.pressclip.si/novi_eclip/article.aspx?SEED=d2c02c30-b708-4caf-b0ab-e9d43bc7102a1742585088

Case 15. Italy-Slovenia

Title Illegal shipment of mixed waste
Date 30-3-2020
Type of waste Household waste
Quantity/Value 8.000 kg
Routes From Italy to Slovenia
Enforcement Repatriation procedure, case still ongoing

Action
Type of crimes/Modus Operandi Illegal export

Criminal organisation NA

Summary On 30th of March Police during routine inspection on border crossing Fernetiči/Fernetti discovered shipment of household (mixed) waste, exported from Italy to Slovenia.

For more information, please visit: This information comes from the the Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning Slovenia

Case 16. Italy-Bulgaria

Title Deportation of Italian garbage stored in Varna port continues
Date 27-3-2020
Type of waste Plastic, rubber, textile, wood, glass
Quantity/Value In total 127 containers with waste, 102 have already been returned to Italy.
Routes From Italy to the port of Varna-West, Bulgaria
Enforcement The containers have been returned to Italy, except for 25 containers that will be returned next week. The investigation continues.

Action Illegal export

Type of crimes/Modus Operandi An Italian company in Salerno shipped the waste.

Criminal organisation
Summary Another 20 containers with garbage stored at the port of Varna-West have been returned to Italy. 25 of the total of 127 garbage containers remain now in the Bulgarian port. They are also expected to be returned back to Italy next week. The case of the Italian garbage in Varna is under investigation. The containers were shipped to Bulgaria by an Italian company based in the town of Salerno.

For more information, please visit: <https://bnr.bg/en/post/101248000/deportation-of-italian-garbage-stored-in-varna-port-continues>

Case 17. Italy-African countries

Title Port of Salerno, international trafficking of waste: 69 precautionary measures
Date 5-5-2020
Type of waste Special and non-special waste, WEEE

Quantity/Value	60 tons of special and non-special waste + 1,000 photovoltaic panels + 100 accumulators
Routes	From the port of Salerno in the south of Italy, directed to African countries (not specified)
Enforcement Action	Operation named 'Tortuga' started back in 2018, following a reporting of the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF) mainly linked to illicit trafficking of tobacco. Huge operation carried out in Campania, led to seizure of 60 tons of special and non-special waste + 1,000 photovoltaic panels + 100 accumulators . The operations was mostly based on wiretapping discovering the corruption among the customs representatives.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illicit export + illicit access to informatics systems + illicit sharing of confidential data linked to the criminal procedures + corruption of customs officials + illicit declaration of transit of tobacco products (then illegally introduced in the black market)
Criminal organisation	The criminal organization involved in this case is composed by a number of corrupted officers, including customs officers, health professionals, carriers, workers of companies operating in the port of Salerno etc.
Summary	The director ad interim of the Customs office of Salerno, the vice-director, two lawyers and one officer of the Ministry of Justice were involved in the criminal activities. The three latter were accused to have illicitly accessed the informatic systems and spread confidential data linked to the criminal proceeding. Moreover, an officer of the Financial Police was accused of a fake declaration concerning the transit of 5 tons of tobacco products, later exported, while the products were actually introduced on the black market. Consequence of this fake declaration was a tax evasion of around 200,000 euros.
For more information, please visit:	https://napoli.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/05/05/news/traffico_internazionale_di_rifiuti_speciali_69_misure_cautelari_nel_porto_di_salerno-255707588/

Case 18. Slovenia - Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste: six people arrested in Gorizia, Belluno and in Campania
Date	20-5-2020
Type of waste	Mostly plastic waste
Quantity/Value	4,500 tons
Routes	From Slovenia to Italy
Enforcement Action	Italian supervisory authorities took action on Tuesday 19 May 2020, arrested 6 people and seized 1 million euro. During the investigations, LEAs made use of drones to monitor the movement of the trucks, since their entrance into Italy and then until the final disposal of waste.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Criminal organisation	Organized crime (eco-mafie)
Summary	Arrested people were engaged in illegal shipments of waste (mostly plastic waste). According to the findings of Italian investigators, waste found in abandoned warehouse near the municipality of Mossa, was transported also from Borovnica town (Slovenia). Through the use of drones, police and financial guards filmed a

number of waste transports. For the most part, trucks arrived in the early hours of the morning to avoid curious glances and possible surveillance by supervisory authorities. They also drove over an area that is densely overgrown and therefore less noticeable. After the start of the investigation, the police and the financial department monitored all the routes of the carriers, from the entrance to Italy to the waste warehouse. The property worth a million euros was confiscated from those involved, which allegedly originated from the waste business, and on the other hand, the suspects caused ecological damage to the municipality of Mossa. When investigators seized a warehouse in Mossa last year full of waste, the suspects began looking for alternative locations where they could transport the waste and continue with a lucrative illegal business, police said.

For more information, please visit: https://corrieredelveneto.corriere.it/belluno/cronaca/20_maggio_19/traffico-illecito-rifiuti-sei-arresti-gorizia-belluno-campania-5455d352-99b4-11ea-82fa-35fe1b035586.shtml
<https://www.primorske.si/primorska/pri-sosedih/smeti-iz-borovnice-koncale-cez-mejo>

Annex III: Destinations of U.S. and U.K. Plastic Waste Exports

Country Waste Mismanagement Rates and Evidence of Harms to Receiving Countries from the Last Beach Cleanup: <https://www.lastbeachcleanup.org/plastic-waste-exports>

Country (Waste Mismanagement Rate)	U.S. Plastic Waste Exports		U.K. Plastic Waste Exports	Evidence of Plastic Waste Import Mismanagement: Environmental & Social Harms
	2010 - 2018 (kg)	2019 (kg)	2019 (kg)	<u>Australia Announces Ban on Plastic Waste Exports: PM says “It’s our waste, and it’s our responsibility” (Aug 2019)</u>
Bangladesh (87%)	4 million	4.5 million	0	The Guardian (2018)
China & Hong Kong (74%) (HK re-exports to other countries)	12,284 million	89.6 million	71.6 million	Plastic China video (2014) Manila Bulletin (2019) South China Morning Post (2019) South China Morning Post (Jan 2020)
India (85%)	892 million	85.5 million	11.4 million	India Times (2018) The Wire (2019)
Indonesia (81%)	370 million	24.3 million	22.5 million	Story of Stuff video Reuters (2018) Huff Post: How A Picturesque Fishing Town Became Smothered In Trash (2019)

				Jakarta Post (2019): Developed countries urged to pick up Brantas River trash ABC News Australia (2019) Swiss Info (2019) Radio Free Asia (2019) The Australian (2019) Citizen Digital (2019) Jakarta Post (2019) Channel News Asia (2019) Free Malaysia Today (August 2019) The Telegraph (August 2019) Channel News Asia (September 2019) Environmental Leader (September 2019) The Brussels Times (October 2019) Resource Recycling (October 2019) Mongabay (November 2019) The Guardian (November 2019) BBC News (November 2019) Channel News Asia (March 2020) FRONTLINE and NPR (March 2020)
Malaysia (55%)	535 million	60.6 million	40.0 million	Greenpeace " The Recycling Myth " report and video (2018) Malaysian Authorities Report (2018) Deutsche Welle (2019) Radio New Zealand video (2018) Al Jazeera video (2019) Suddeutsche Zeitung (2019) BBC video (2019) Huff Post (2019), CNN (2019) The Straits Times (2019) The Sun Daily (2019) Reuters (2019) The Daily Mail (2019) The Star (2019) Recycling International (2019) Center for Public Integrity (2019) Malay Mail (2019) Environmental Leader (2019) SkyNews (January 2020) RTE (February 2020) The Guardian (February 2020) Fortune (March 2020)
Mexico (12%)	265.4 million	36.9 million	0	
Pakistan (86%)	4 million	5.0 million	7.1 million	Greenpeace Unearthed (2018) Pakistan & Gulf Economist (2018) Pakistan Today (2019)

				The News on Sunday (2019)
Philippines (81%)	15 million	7.9 million	0.36 million	The Manila Times (2019) Manila Bulletin (2019) Rappler (2019) Manila Bulletin (2019) Philippines News Agency (2019) Coconuts Manila (2019) The Guardian (2019)
Senegal (82%)	0	7.8 million	0	Recycling Today (2018)
Thailand (73%)	178 million	27.2 million	1.2 million	Sky News Video (2018) Thai Authorities Report (2018) The Straits Times (2019)
Turkey (16%)	51 million	29.2 million	153.9 million	The Guardian (2018) IPA News (2019) Discarded (2019) AL-Monitor (2019) Ahval News (2020) Al Jazeera (2020)
Vietnam (86%)	447 million	3.2 million	0.02 million	Nikkei Asian Review (2018) The Conversation (2019)
Total to Countries with High Mismanagement Rates (>5%)	15,234 million	436.3 million	320 million	Sky News: Dirty Business (2018) Financial Review (2018) National Geographic (2018) CBC News video (2018) CGTN video (2018) Financial Times (2018) GAIA & Greenpeace Reports on Impacts Throughout Asia (2019) 60 Minutes Australia (2019) Voice of America (2019) South China Morning Post (2019) Asia Times (2019) Mother Jones (2019) The Australian (2019) Time (2019) The Guardian (2019) The Los Angeles Times (2019) Center for Public Integrity (2019) DW (2019) The Guardian - Cambodia (2019) Flora and Fauna International Report (2019) BBC News (June 2019) CNN (July 2019)

Canada				China Daily (August 2019) Geopolitical Monitor (August 2019)
	1,432 million	151.4 million	0.02 million	Greenpeace (2019) The Inertia (2019) The Globe and Mail (2019)
South Korea (Some plastic waste is re-exported to other countries)	100 million	31.0 million	4.5 million	CBC News (2019) CTV News (2019) CFJC Today (2019) Todayville (2019) CBC News (July 2019) Manila Bulletin (August 2019) Sun Star (August 2019) The Chronicle Journal (January 2020)

Data Sources:

1. U.S. Plastic Waste Exports ([U.S. Census Bureau data](#))
2. U.K. Plastic Waste Exports ([HM Revenue & Customs data](#))
3. Country Waste Mismanagement Rates ([Jambeck et. al, 2015](#))



WasteForce Crime Alert #7

June- Aug 2020

Date: 31 Aug 2020

Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 7

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The Waste Force project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications, policy updates and relevant videos and documentaries. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #7 summarises information that was published between June and August 2020. The waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

- Introduction
- Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
- Analysis of News cases published, see also the overview in Annex II
- Summary of IGO Enforcement actions, see also the overview in Annex III
- Summary of Media, see also the overview in Annex IV

2. Summary of new publications and legislative and governance updates. ([Annex I](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of recent publications, sources of each publication can also be found in Annex I.

With regards to [updates in legislation and governance](#), the *Basel Action Network* published an article about the proposed Delegated Regulation of the EU regarding the new trade controls on unrecyclable waste. While the European Union joined Norway in co-sponsoring amendments to establish new trade controls on dirty and unrecyclable waste, the draft regulation does not intent to fully apply the new trade controls in the EU market. *Greenberg Traurig* reported that the European Commission has opened a consultation on the adaptation of amendments to the European Union's law on transboundary shipments of waste. The *Basel Action Network* also published an article about proposed changes in regulation in New Zealand. The ministry is proposing to meet the Basel Convention requirements and include "mixed plastic waste" in its "Import and Exports Order" permitting system. The Convention, in effect from January 2021, requires that most "mixed plastic" waste exports would require prior informed consent from the receiving countries.

Finally, the *Environmental Protection Department of Hong Kong* has opened a page with Frequently asked questions about import and export of waste to/from Hong Kong.

In Annex I an overview can be found of ten news [articles about issues related to plastic waste pollution and illegal trade](#). According to the *Basel Action Network*, India and other countries have been hit with the inflow of plastic scrap since the Ban of China. The inflow of plastic in Turkey has also reached its highest level in 2019 with on average a monthly import quantity of 48,500 tons. According to *The Intercept* the plastics waste crisis is effecting some of the poorest individuals in developing countries, where there are no government-funded waste collection or recycling systems. For example in Kenya plastic waste is causing massive human rights and child labour problems. *The Intercept* also posted an article about how plastic waste is making Central American Communities uninhabitable. *The Korea Times* posted an article stating concern about the increased use of single-plastics since the spread of COVID-19, that could end up in the oceans. *The Document Journal* posted an article about the issues with plastic processing in Vietnam. And finally, *The Print* also published an article reporting about the concern that action on plastic pollution has been slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also that there is a new emerging angle to address this pollution and enable a transition to a greener and more circular economy.

To comply with the new Chinese legislation, the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) stopped accepting shipments of recovered plastics, fiber, metals and chemicals headed for China and Hong Kong from June 2020. Also the German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd said it will stop accepting cargoes of solid waste, including scrap metal, bound for China from 1 September 2020 onwards to comply with new legislation.

Annex I of this WCA also includes links to [four new reports and scientific articles](#). In July 2020 the Global E-waste Monitor was published by *UNU-ViE SCYCLE, ITU and ISWA*. The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 provides the most comprehensive overview of the global e-waste challenge, explains how it fits into international efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and discusses how to create a sustainable society and circular economy.

A new *INTERPOL* strategic report on global plastic waste management has found an alarming increase in illegal plastic pollution trade across the world since 2018. The report indicates that there has been a considerable increase over the past two years in illegal waste shipments, primarily rerouted to South-East Asia via multiple transit countries to camouflage the origin of the waste shipment. Other key findings include an increase in illegal waste fire and landfills in Europe and Asia, a significant rise in the use of counterfeit documents and fraudulent waste registrations, with case studies from each of the contributing countries illustrating the extent and complexity of the problem. Based on open sources and criminal intelligence from 40 countries, the report provides a comprehensive global picture of emerging trafficking routes and crime threats in the plastic waste market, and recommends tailored enforcement responses.

Ecoprog published a study about plastic recycling in Europe is an analysis of plastics recycling in Europe, including of 1200 sorting plants and 1,000 plastic recycling plants.

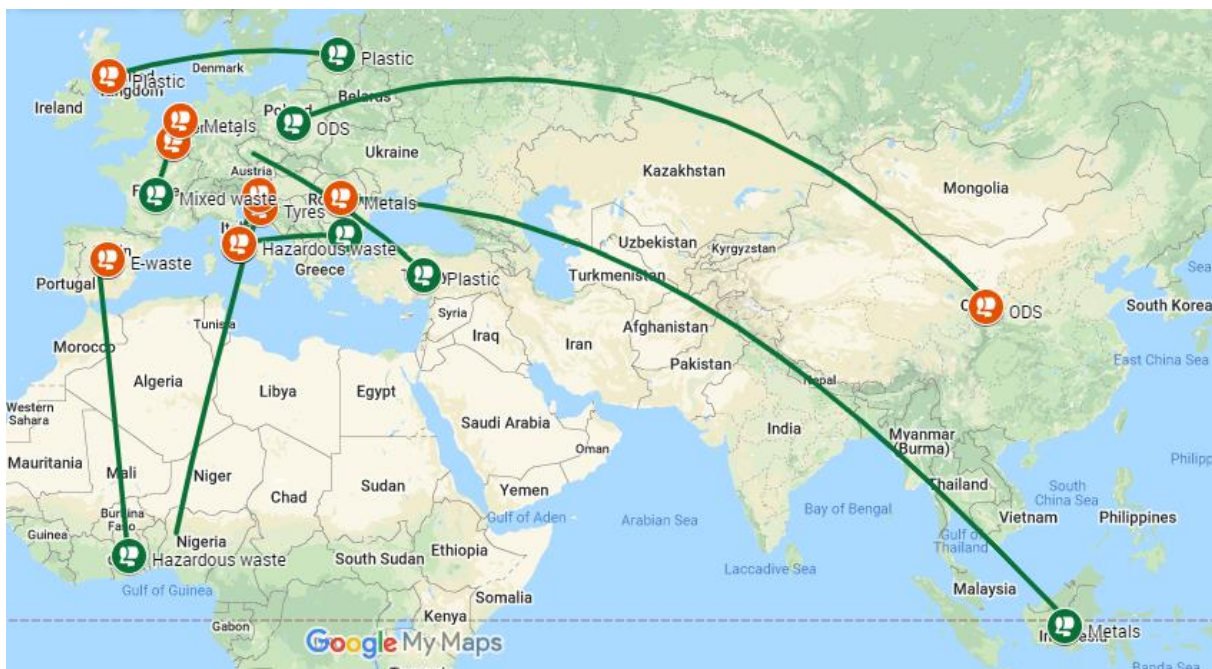
There are also two scientific publications included, one about conceptualising transnational organised crime at sea, including waste crime and the other is a revised article about the transboundary hazardous waste movements after the Basel Convention.

Finally, the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment and Spatial Planning published [two summaries of joint inspections](#) in Slovenia in June and July.

3. Analysis of news cases ([Annex II](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between June 2020 and August 2020. In total, 15 cases were collected, of which an overview can also be found in Annex II.

Figure 2: Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the origin or destination country
For more information follow this [Link](#).



- Origin country or national case
- Destination country or national case

Types of waste and routes

Types of waste reported	Routes and case numbers
Plastic	United Kingdom > Latvia (case 5)
	Europe (UK, Italy, Germany, France) > Turkey (case 9)
Metal	Romania > Indonesia (case 6)
	Netherlands (case 7)
Ozone Depleting Substances (HFCs)	China > Poland (case 1)
E-waste	Canary Islands Spain > several countries in Africa (case 4)
Tyres	Croatia > Italy > Africa (case 10)
Mixed waste and other	China (case 3)
	Belgium > France (case 8)
	Slovenia > Italy (case 11)
Hazardous waste	Italy > Bulgaria (case 2)
	Spain > Africa (case 9)
	Romania > Malaysia > Indonesia (case 10)
	The Netherlands > Belgium (case 12)
	Italy (case 13 and 14)
	Spain (case 15)

Table 7: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Quantities and values

The following quantities and values were reported for illegal trade flows:

- Refrigerants: illegal export from China to Poland of 14 tonnes, involving 1150 cylinders.
- Plastic: illegal export from the United Kingdom to Latvia of 549 tonnes of plastic and rubber waste.
- Tyres: illegal export from Croatia via Italy to countries in Africa of 13,2 tonnes of tyres

Hazardous waste including metals:

- Illegal shipments (138) from the Canary Islands to Africa containing 2500 tons of hazardous waste, of which 750 tons of e-waste.
- Illegal export from Romania to Indonesia of 110 containers of hazardous heavy metals including 1,864 tonnes of electric arc furnace dust (EAFD)

Other waste:

- Illegal export from Belgium to France of at least 780 tonnes of rubber and household waste.
- Illegal export from Slovenia to Italy of 20 tonnes of non-hazardous waste.
- The seizure of 598,800 tonnes of different types of illicit waste imported in China from different countries.

In total 5,740 tonnes of waste was illegally shipped plus a summary of seizures in China of 598,000 tonnes.

Modus operandi

Types of modus operandi reported for the illegal export were:

- Export without a correct permit;
- Unreported export, smuggling;

- False declaration (e.g. EAFD declared as concentrated zinc);
- Waste declared as second-hand goods (electrical and electronic equipment, this was sourced from waste bins and on the street and shipped as used equipment);

Illegal storage and management:

- Lack of a permit to manage plastic and rubber waste;
- Lack of compliance with the permit;
- Illegal disposal;

Other organized illicit activities including illicit competition, threat and violent acts, attempted murder and illicit possession of firearms;

Criminal organisations

In six of the cases the (suspected) involvement of organised crime groups was reported. In case 2, two brothers who owned a recycling business were linked to a list of names of media bosses and entrepreneurs who were assassinated in the 1990s. Sums running into millions of dollars were entered against some of the names. These brothers were working under demand of a deputy minister that authorised the illegal trafficking of waste. In case 3, the operation "Blue Sky 2020" led to the capture of 80 criminal suspects in 38 smuggling syndicates. In case 4 and 8, there is suspected involvement of an organised crime group. In case 13 there was involvement of a criminal group composed by entrepreneurs, lawyers and professionals in the nautical sector. Finally, in case 14 there was also involvement of organized crime (Sicilian mafia) and of public officers working in the waste collection/treatment municipal company.

In two other cases the involvement of recycling companies was reported. In case 5 a recycling company illegally imported waste and in case 7 a recycling company is suspected to be involved in other criminal activities including money laundering, forgery, possession of stolen property, and various environmental crimes.

Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III

The joint RETROVIRUS operation was coordinated by EUROPOL in cooperation with the EnviCrimeNet network. Operation RETROVIRUS aims to prevent "inappropriate" / illegal collection, transport, management and management of sanitary waste (contrary to international, EU and national legislation and international conventions) for activities against the spread and treatment of the COVID epidemic 19. In Annex III a link can be found for more information.

As part of the operation RETROVIRUS more than 500 inspections were conducted in Spain by the Guardia Civil, and 184 infractions have been reported with regard to irregularities in the management, transport and disposal of medical waste mainly related to the Covid pandemic. These infractions are both dangerous for the pollution of the ecosystem and for the possible transmission of the virus (see also case 15 in Annex II).

Summary of media, see also the overview in Annex IV

In Annex IV a link can be found to a video about an investigation by BBC news into plastic waste that is sent from Britain to Turkey for recycling, but is instead being dumped and burned on the side of roads. There is also a second link to a video about unauthorized landfills in France, where Belgian waste is dumped illegally.

Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title **EU Promotes Greater Global Responsibility on Plastic Waste - But Not for Internal Market!**

Organisation Basel Action Network

Type of waste Plastic

Date 6-7-2020

Summary In April of last year, the European Union joined Norway in co-sponsoring amendments to the world's only waste treaty to establish new trade controls on the dirtiest and most unrecyclable plastic wastes. However, last week, the European Commission made it official in their publication of the proposed Delegated Regulation that the EU does not intend to fully apply these new trade controls themselves between their own member states. The draft regulation would allow some plastic wastes to instead be freely traded in the EU market without the newly agreed controls. These plastics have recently been regulated under the Basel Convention's Annex II due to the difficulty in recycling them, and the risks they pose to human health and the environment particularly when they are burnt. They include a wide set of mixed plastic wastes, PVC and PTFE (Teflon) wastes, as well as all manner of plastic waste not destined for mechanical recycling.

Links <https://www.ban.org/news/2020/5/21/regulation-could-clean-up-new-zealands-exports-of-contaminated-recycling-to-developing-countries>

Title **Regulation could clean up New Zealand's exports of contaminated recycling to developing countries**

Organisation Basel Action Network

Type of waste Plastic

Date 21-5-2020

Summary The Ministry is proposing changes to its Imports and Exports Order to meet Basel Convention requirements, and include "mixed plastic waste" in New Zealand's permitting system. The convention, in effect from January 2021, means most "mixed plastic" waste exports would require prior consent from the receiving countries, a Ministry for the Environment spokeswoman said. Currently, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is only required to issue permits for exports of "hazardous" plastic waste, or plastic waste mixed with other waste. Environmental anthropologist Dr Trisia Farrell said "We need to make sure that there's clear limits for the contamination of our waste shipped offshore."

Link <https://www.ban.org/news/2020/5/21/regulation-could-clean-up-new-zealands-exports-of-contaminated-recycling-to-developing-countries>

Title **EU Opens Consultation on Rules for Transboundary Plastic Waste Shipments**

Organisation GreenbergTraurig

Type of waste Plastic waste

Date 2-7-2020

Summary The European Commission has opened a consultation on the adoption of amendments (currently available in draft form) to the European Union's law on the transboundary shipments of waste. These amendments are intended to allow the EU to give effect to recent changes to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (the

Convention) which significantly extend the Convention's scope in relation to plastic waste.

Link <https://www.gtlaw.com/en/insights/2020/7/eu-opens-consultation-on-rules-for-transboundary-plastic-waste-shipments>

Title **Guidelines & References - Control on Import and Export of Waste**

Organisation Environmental Protection Department Hong Kong

Type of waste Hazardous waste

Date 14-7-2020

Summary Frequently asked questions about import and export of waste to/from Hong Kong

Link https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec_faq.html

News Articles

Title **Millions against rubbish**

Organisation KfW

Type of waste Plastic

Date 22-1-2019

Summary How can the plastic pollution of our oceans be stopped? A multimillion dollar waste project financed by KfW in Indonesia shows that the battle against marine litter must also be fought on land. At the moment, EUR 75 million is available for the construction of landfills with sorting and composting facilities in Jambi, Sidoarjo, Jombang and Malang. A further EUR 7.6 million will be used to ensure that municipalities are ready to operate these facilities in a sustainable way, to organise proper waste collection and to convince the population of the importance of "the three R's" – reduce, reuse and recycle.

Link <https://www.kfw.de/stories/environment/nature-conservation/solid-waste-management-indonesia/>

Title **Is India Becoming America's Trash Bin for Illegal Plastic Waste?**

Organisation Basel Action Network

Type of waste Plastic

Date 30-1-2020

Summary Since China banned the import of containers carrying scrap paper, plastics and metals for recycling and reuse, other countries have been hit with the inflow of plastic scrap. While Indonesia promised to send back illegal plastic waste to the origin countries, BAN found out it was illegally converted to countries like India, Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam. The waste was categorised as paper scrap when, in reality, it comprised of plastic and other hazardous materials

Link <https://www.ban.org/news/2020/1/30/is-india-becoming-americas-trash-bin-for-illegal-plastic-waste>

Title **Plastic waste sent from EU to Turkey increased by almost 200 times**

Organisation Basel Action Network

Type of waste Plastic

Date 27-6-2020

Summary The amount of plastic waste sent from European Union countries to be processed in Turkey increased 173-fold since 2004, news website Diken reported on Friday. This means that Turkey is receiving an average of 213 trucks of plastic waste from the EU

every day. Turkey's plastic waste imports reached their highest ever level in 2019, at an average monthly quantity of 48,500 tons, Diken reported. The highest plastic waste exporters to Turkey last year were Britain (153,967 tons), Italy (89,470), Belgium (85,843), Germany (67,466), and France (56,824).

Link <https://www.ban.org/news/2020/6/29/plastic-waste-sent-from-eu-to-turkey-increased-by-almost-200-times>

Title **Shipping giant stops e-plastic exports to Hong Kong**

Type of waste Plastic, metal

Organisation Basel Action Network

Date 18-6-2020

Summary Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) this month stopped accepting shipments of recovered plastics, fiber, metals and chemicals headed for China and Hong Kong "complying with recently updated Chinese legislation". The company issued a notice to customers outlining the change, which took effect June 1.

Link <https://www.ban.org/news/2020/6/18/shipping-giant-stops-e-plastic-exports-to-hong-kong>

Title **Africa's exploding plastic nightmare**

Type of waste Plastic

Organisation The Intercept

Date 19-4-2020

Summary While the plastics crisis has largely played out on the administrative level in the U.S., burdening local governments with the growing costs and logistics of managing plastic garbage, in developing countries that have no government-funded waste collection or recycling systems, those burdens fall on individuals. In Kenya, where some 18 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day, the responsibility offloaded by some of the most profitable companies in the world falls to some of the poorest individuals in the world. And Kenya is just one of dozens of developing countries where plastic is causing massive human rights and child labor problems, in addition to environmental devastation. Wealthy countries fail to recycle the vast majority of their plastics.

Link <https://theintercept.com/2020/04/19/africa-plastic-waste-kenya-ethiopia/>

Title **River of trash**

Type of waste Plastic

Organisation The Intercept

Date 27-10-2019

Summary The article is about how plastic pollution is making Central American Communities uninhabitable.

Link <https://theintercept.com/2019/10/27/plastic-pollution-guatemala/>

Title **Plastic pollution plagues Southeast Asia amid Covid-19 lockdowns**

Organisation The Korea Times

Type of waste Plastic

Date 10-8-2020

Summary With consumers around the world stuck at home amid the spread of Covid-19 — which has infected close to 19 million people and killed more than 700,000 — the utilisation of single-use plastic has skyrocketed, raising concerns about recycling and surging pollution. Many people are reliant on food delivery services and online shopping platforms to obtain goods and stay connected, with a corresponding increase in disposable packaging. Southeast Asia is no different. More than 50 per cent of the eight million tonnes of plastic waste that ends up in the world's oceans

every year comes from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand, environmental advocacy group Ocean Conservancy estimates — partly because richer Western countries such as Australia, Canada, Britain and the United States have sent massive shipments of waste to these countries for decades.

Link https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/world/2020/08/501_294157.html

Title **The pandemic built new trade barriers that hurt plastic pollution**

Organisation The Print

Type of waste Plastic waste

Date 1-8-2020

Summary Action on plastic pollution has been slowed considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic – but there’s a new emerging angle that could help rebuild momentum for the transition to a greener and more circular society. Governments at the World Trade Organization (WTO) are also showing increased interest in tackling plastics pollution. Cross-border frictions prevent economies of scale in tackling plastic pollution. Governments must collaborate to scale the circular economy at a global level. The article gives a different recommendations related to traceability, data, border measures, internal measures and transparency.

Link <https://theprint.in/features/the-pandemic-built-new-trade-barriers-that-hurt-plastic-pollution/472610/>

Title **Vietnam’s “plastic village” is the tale of Western excess**

Organisation Document Journal

Type of waste Plastic

Date 7-8-2020

Summary In July 2018, the Vietnamese government announced it would curb the legal and illegal importation of plastic after waste shipments to the country surged following China’s ban of several types of solid waste earlier in the year. Vietnam Customs reported that the country imported 9.2 million tons of scrap material in 2018, a 14 percent increase since 2017. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment cited environmental concerns as the impetus for the policy change. As plastic processing becomes more lucrative than farming, many people travel to Minh Khai to work long hours in factories or workshops. These workers and nearby residents are exposed to hundreds of chemicals— including hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, and heavy metals—which can lead to developmental disorders, endocrine disruption, and cancer.

Link <https://www.documentjournal.com/2020/08/vietnams-plastic-village-is-the-tale-of-western-excess/>

Title **Hapag-Lloyd to halt waste shipments to China**

Organisation Business Insider

Type of waste Solid waste

Date 26-6-2020

Summary German container shipping line Hapag-Lloyd said it had notified customers it will stop accepting cargoes of solid waste, including scrap metal, bound for China that arrive from Sept. 1 onwards to comply with new legislation.

Link <https://www.businessinsider.com/hapag-lloyd-to-halt-waste-shipments-to-china-2020-6>

Studies/Reports

Title	Plastics recycling in Europe
Type of waste	Plastic
Organisation	ecoprogram GmbH
Date	July-2020
Summary	The study "Plastics recycling in Europe" includes: "A detailed analysis of all the important political, economic, operational and technical trends in European plastics recycling."; "The description and analysis of over 1,200 sorting plants and over 1,000 plastics recycling plants (by site), including significant key data on operators, input and capacities (wherever possible)."; "A detailed assessment of this data as well as an analysis of the legislation and the market factors at country level (30 European countries). This also includes capacities and market shares of sorting and recycling by country."; "Background about the planning boom for chemical recycling plants in Europe and an overview of more than 30 chemical recycling projects.".
Link	https://www.ecoprogram.com/fileadmin/user_upload/leseproben/extract_plastics_recycling_europe_ecoprogram.pdf
Title	Strategic Analysis Report: Emerging criminal trends in the global plastic waste market since January 2018
Type of waste	Plastic
Organisation	INTERPOL
Date	27-08-2020
Summary	A new INTERPOL strategic report on global plastic waste management has found an alarming increase in illegal plastic pollution trade across the world since 2018. The report, entitled <i>INTERPOL's strategic analysis on emerging criminal trends in the global plastic waste market since January 2018</i> , indicates that there has been a considerable increase over the past two years in illegal waste shipments, primarily rerouted to South-East Asia via multiple transit countries to camouflage the origin of the waste shipment. Other key findings include an increase in illegal waste fire and landfills in Europe and Asia, a significant rise in the use of counterfeit documents and fraudulent waste registrations, with case studies from each of the contributing countries illustrating the extent and complexity of the problem. Based on open sources and criminal intelligence from 40 countries, the report provides a comprehensive global picture of emerging trafficking routes and crime threats in the plastic waste market, and recommends tailored enforcement responses. The report points to the link between crime networks and legitimate pollution management businesses which are used as a cover for illegal operations, with criminals often resorting to financial crime and document forgery to carry out their global operations.
Link	https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-alerts-to-sharp-rise-in-plastic-waste-crime https://www.interpol.int/content/download/15587/file/INTERPOL%20Report%20criminal%20trends-plastic%20waste.pdf
Type of waste	Global E-waste monitor 2020 E-waste
Organisation	UNU-VIE SCYCLE, ITU, ISWA
Date	July-2020
Summary	The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 provides the most comprehensive overview of the global e-waste challenge, explains how it fits into international efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and discusses how to create a sustainable society and circular economy. The report provides a national and regional analysis on e-waste quantities and legislative instruments, and makes predictions until 2030. It also

encourages decision-makers to increase activities to measure and monitor e-waste using an internationally recognised methodological framework.

Link <https://publications.globalewaste.org/v1/file/271/The-Global-E-waste-Monitor-2020-Quantities-flows-and-the-circular-economy-potential.pdf>

Title **Blue crime: Conceptualising transnational organised crime at sea (Academic article with restricted access)**

Type of waste All types

Organisation Marine Policy, Christian Bueger and Timothy Edmunds

Date 29-6-2020

Summary Academic article about conceptualising transnational organised crime at sea, including illegal shipments of waste.

Link <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308597X20300270?via%3Dihub>

Title **Trade for the Environment: Transboundary Hazardous Waste Movements After the Basel Convention (Academic article with open access)**

Type of waste Hazardous waste

Organisation Review of Policy Research, Shiming Yang

Date 06-03-2019, revised 27-07-2020

Summary Current literature emphasizes North–South conflict under the Basel Convention as a main reason for these shortcomings. This paper returns to the fundamental question as to why countries engage in this trade. It contends that hazardous wastes are not only characterized by their environmental impacts, but are also distinct in the ways they are generated, distributed, and managed. I argue that global economic integration has commodified these wastes, and countries are increasingly diverging on their views of hazardous materials. [...] As globalization deepens, management of hazardous wastes may require extensive trade of hazardous materials between countries of varying capabilities and interests. Contrary to its current trade minimization approach based on a crude North–South dichotomy, the Basel Convention may benefit from an approach that motivates capable countries to import wastes and one that builds capacity for intended waste importers.

Link https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3386820

Inspection summary

Title **Control actions to prevent the negligent management of medical waste, in order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus and other diseases**

Type of waste Medical waste

Organisation Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment and Spatial Planning

Date 28-7-2020

Summary Summary of joint inspections in Slovenia, realised in July. The main focus of inspections was prevention of negligent management of sanitary waste, in order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus and other diseases

Link <https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-07-28-akcije-nadzora-za-preprecevanje-malomarnega-ravnanja-s-sanitarnimi-odpadki-z-namenom-preprečitve-sirjenja-virusa-covid-19-in-drugih-bolezni/>

Title **Control actions for cross-border shipments of waste in June.**

Type of waste Medical waste

Organisation Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment and Spatial Planning

Date 27-7-2020

Summary Summary of joint inspections in Slovenia, realised in June. The focus of the controls was on the prevention of environmental crime directly related to the COVID-19 epidemic, with an emphasis on the prevention of illegal handling and transport of

sanitary waste. The way waste is collected, transported, treated and ultimately disposed of is crucial to curbing the spread of the epidemic.

Link

<https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-07-02-akcije-nadzora-cezmejnega-posiljanja-odpadkov-v-mesecu-juniju/>

Annex II: Cases reported in the news

Case 1. China- Poland

Title	Customs seize 14 tonnes of illegal HFC in Rotterdam
Date	3-7-2020
Type of waste	HFCs: shipment included R410A, R32 and R404A.
Quantity/Value	It involved 1,150 cylinders, all of them illegal non-refillables, 14 tonnes.
Routes	The shipment coming from China was initially discharged in the port of Hamburg and declared in transit towards Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, despite the fact that the final destination was Lithuania. Further investigations established that the cargo was destined for a storage facility in Poland.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export and illegal storage.
Enforcement Action	The successful seizure is said to have been the result of close cooperation between the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and authorities in the Netherlands, Lithuania and Poland.
Criminal organisation	Unreported
Summary	The European Anti-Fraud Office's crackdown on the illegal trade in HFCs has led to the seizure of 14 tonnes of illegal refrigerants at the port of Rotterdam. It has not been revealed the exact refrigerants seized but photographs indicate the shipment included R410A, R32 and R404A. It involved 1,150 cylinders, all of them illegal non-refillable. OLAF's investigation began when it identified a suspicious cargo destined for a consignee in Lithuania that was not registered to receive imports of this nature. In addition, the shipment coming from China was initially discharged in the port of Hamburg and declared in transit towards Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, despite the fact that the final destination was Lithuania. Further investigations established that the cargo was destined for a storage facility in Poland.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/customs-seize-14-tonnes-of-illegal-hfc-in-rotterdam/

Case 2. Italy - Bulgaria

Title	Bulgarian minister charged over illegal waste imports from Italy
Date	31-5-2020
Type of waste	Dangerous waste such as batteries, lead and polyethylene.
Quantity/Value	Quantities are not reported for the burning, but in the past 157 containers were sent back from Sofia to Italy
Routes	Italy to Bulgaria
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The imported waste was not recycled but illegally burnt.
Enforcement Action	Bulgaria's deputy environment minister Krassimir Zhivkov has been arrested and charged for his alleged role in illegally importing harmful waste from Italy and burning it. Also the business men the Bobokovi brothers have been arrested. Bobokovi brothers were detained for 24 hours and will most likely be charged with participation in an organized crime group and tax crimes.
Criminal organisation	Italian and Bulgarian authorities had been investigating two Bulgarian brothers operating in their countries. They own a recycling business. During a raid on Friday on the home of the businessmen in the Bulgarian town of Rousse, the police found a list of names of media bosses and entrepreneurs who were assassinated in the 1990s. Sums running into millions of dollars were entered against some of the

names. “Deputy minister Krassimir Zhivkov pressured his subordinates to authorise the illegal trafficking of waste” from Italy.

Summary Bulgaria’s deputy environment minister Krassimir Zhivkov has been arrested and charged for his alleged role in illegally importing harmful waste from Italy and burning it, prosecutors said Saturday. Italian and Bulgarian authorities had been investigating two Bulgarian brothers operating in their countries. They own a recycling business and deal with dangerous waste such as batteries, lead and polyethylene. “Deputy minister Krassimir Zhivkov pressured his subordinates to authorise the illegal trafficking of waste” from Italy, prosecutor Dolka Brezashka said, asking for him to be held in custody.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.macaubusiness.com/bulgarian-minister-charged-over-illegal-waste-imports-from-italy/>
https://www.novinite.com/articles/204679/Development%3A+More+Arrested+for+Illegal+Import+of+Waste+from+Italy?fbclid=IwAR16_IQa1I3ngfh9ajv9geJp-ZDBH7YAMyvOSCMhCJPHwVP3tFw8h5kNzek
<https://www.ban.org/news/2020/5/29/development-more-arrested-for-illegal-import-of-waste-from-italy>

Case 3. - China

Title **China uncovers over 500k tonnes of illegal waste in latest crackdown**

Date 19-6-2020

Type of waste Different types of illicit waste including waste oil and slag

Quantity/Value The seizure of 598,800 tonnes of illicit imported waste. The GAC also announced that Chinese imports of solid waste are down 42.5 per cent year-on-year, totalling 3,225,000 tonnes between January and May of this year. Solid waste smuggling cases have also seen a decrease of 58.1 per cent year-on-year, with the GAC handling 81 criminal cases despite the disruption caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Routes Unreported

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Smuggling

Enforcement Action The 'Blue Sky' initiative was first launched in a 2018 campaign, which cracked down on illegal imports of 24 grades of waste banned earlier that year. This followed in the vein of previous campaigns including 2013's Operation Green Fence and 2017's National Sword Campaign. On Wednesday (17 June), China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced that the Guangdong Sub-Administration and 12 participating Customs Districts had successfully busted 38 smuggling syndicates.

Criminal organisation The capture of 80 criminal suspects in 38 smuggling syndicates

Summary Chinese customs authorities have intercepted over 500,000 tonnes of illegal waste under the 'Blue Sky 2020' anti-smuggling campaign and plan to continue the crackdown on illicit domestic and foreign waste imports.

For more information, please visit: <https://resource.co/article/china-uncovers-over-500k-tonnes-illegal-waste-latest-crackdown>

Case 4. Canary Islands Spain- countries in Africa

Title **2 500 tonnes of waste trafficked from the Canary Island to Africa**

Date 29-6-2020

Type of waste Second-hand items, such as vehicle parts, household goods, and a huge amount of electrical waste and electronic equipment.

Quantity/Value 2 500 tonnes of waste trafficked from the Canary Island to Africa

Routes	The Canary Islands, Spain to countries in Africa
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The criminals loaded maritime containers with second-hand items, such as vehicle parts, household goods, and a huge amount of electrical waste and electronic equipment. The investigation carried out by the Spanish officers concluded that the unwanted electronics were shipped to several countries in Africa to be sold on to buyers there. The items sold were all obsolete and were not fit for use as the criminal network had primarily sourced the equipment from rubbish bins and on the street.
Enforcement Action	An organised crime group has been dismantled by the Spanish Civil Guard SEPRONA, with the support of Europol and the Italian Carabinieri.
Criminal organisation Summary	An organised crime group. Those arrested are also suspected of document fraud to carry out their illegal activities. 750 000 kg of electrical waste and electronic equipment was among the waste seized by the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) after a two-year investigation.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/2-500-tonnes-of-waste-trafficked-canary-islands-to-africa

Case 5. United Kingdom - Latvia

Title	Latvia to repatriate ‘illegal’ UK waste
Date	26-6-2020
Type of waste	Plastic and rubber
Quantity/Value	549 tonnes of waste
Routes	United Kingdom to Latvia and repatriation back to the United Kingdom.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Why Recycle imported the waste from the UK. They does have a valid permit for storing or temporarily sorting municipal waste, but not to manage the plastic and rubber waste, according to the Latvian regulator. It has also been claimed by the VVD that the cargo’s accompanying documents provide incorrect information, namely, “a poorly sorted mixture of municipal waste is assigned to plastic waste”. The VVD also claimed that the company had not complied with the conditions of the issued polluting activity permit, as it had improperly managed the waste. The company was reported to have stored municipal waste in an unauthorised place, which the VVD said created a “danger to the surrounding environment by polluting and littering”. According to the Latvian authorities, waste can only be imported to Latvia to recovery facilities that have “adequate capacity” and a permit for the recovery of the waste, and shipments of non-classified waste can only take place subject to prior written notification and consent.
Enforcement Action	The Latvian Environment Service, known as VVD, said it carried out an inspection on “possible illegal transboundary waste shipments” and has “started to take measures” to repatriate the waste. They are working with the Latvian authorities to investigate the circumstances around these particular exports, and will take appropriate action to hold those responsible to account should there be any evidence of wrong-doing – and to ensure any illegally exported waste is repatriated to the UK.”
Criminal organisation Summary	A Latvian materials recycling company, Why Recycle, imported the waste from “various companies in Great Britain” between 25 May to 16 June 2020. The Environment Agency is working with its counterpart in Latvia into an investigation into possible illegal waste exports from the UK. State Environment Service for Latvia has indicated it will repatriate 549 tonnes of waste “imported from Great Britain”.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/latvia-to-repatriate-illegal-uk-waste/>
<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/environment/illegal-waste-imports-into-latvia-stopped.a364327/>

Case 6. Romania – Indonesia (via Malaysia)

Title	Malaysia uncovers largest abandoned shipment of illegal toxic waste from Romania
Date	19-7-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous heavy metals: lectric arc furnace dust (EAFD) - a by-product of steel production that contains heavy metals like zinc, cadmium and lead.
Quantity/Value	110 containers of hazardous heavy metals: 1,864 tonnes of electric arc furnace dust (EAFD).
Routes	The containers were found abandoned at the Tanjung Pelepas port in Malaysia, they originated from Romania and were bound for Indonesia.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The EAFD, classified as a toxic waste under the Basel Convention, had been listed as concentrated zinc in declaration forms. "The Department of Environment, as the Basel Convention authority (for Malaysia), has not granted approval for or received notifications from the waste exporter to transit in Malaysia," he said.
Enforcement Action	Malaysia has contacted the Romanian Basel Convention authority to arrange for the repatriation of the containers and have engaged Interpol for further investigations, Bernama said.
Criminal organisation Summary	Unreported.
For more information, please visit:	Malaysia discovered 110 containers of hazardous heavy metals from Romania and bound for Indonesia that had illegally entered the country and were abandoned last month, its largest case of dumped toxic waste, state media Bernama reported on Sunday. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-environment/malaysia-uncovers-largest-abandoned-shipment-of-illegal-toxic-waste-from-romania-idUSKCN24K0DK https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/1275090890/maleisie-onderschept-1-8-miljoen-kilo-giftig-afval-uit-roemenie/?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=whatsapp

Case 7. Netherlands

Title	Gold worth millions of euros seized at recycling company in Limburg
Date	15-7-2020
Type of waste	Metals (gold) (no confirmed relation with waste crime)
Quantity/Value	Hundreds of kilograms of gold (no confirmed relation with waste crime)
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Unreported
Enforcement Action	Two company officials were arrested
Criminal organisation Summary	The public prosecutor suspects the company of involvement in money laundering, forgery, possession of stolen property, and various environmental crimes. Two company officials were arrested.
Summary	The Dutch authorities seized hundreds of kilograms of gold, worth millions of euros, during an investigation into a Limburg recycling company suspected of money laundering. Various other items were also found at the company, including a container filled with mortar grenades and old ammunition, the Public Prosecution

Service (OM) said in a statement on Wednesday. Two people were arrested. The authorities searched the recycling company as well as three homes belonging to company officials. They found and seized hundreds of kilograms of gold, about 450 thousand euros in cash, three properties, cars including a Maserati, Ferrari and Porsche, and 17 expensive watches, including from the brands Rolex and Audemars Piguet. Various firearms and related ammunition were also seized.

For more information, please visit:

<https://nltimes.nl/2020/07/15/hundreds-kilos-gold-seized-limburg-money-laundering-investigation>
<https://www.nu.nl/binnenland/6064518/miljoenen-euros-aan-goud-in-beslag-genomen-bij-limburgs-recyclingbedrijf.html>

Case 8. Belgium - France

Title Unauthorized landfills, full of Belgian waste dumped illegally, pollute French Lorraine

Date 25-6-2020
Type of waste rubber, household waste

Quantity/Value at least 780 tonnes
Routes Anvers, Brecht in Belgium to villages in Lorraine, France

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal export and disposal

Enforcement Action French public prosecutor's office has opened an investigation for fraud in an organized group and criminal association. Another investigation is ongoing in Belgium.

Criminal organisation Probable involvement of a criminal organisation

Summary Several hundred tons of rubble and other household waste were dumped illegally in a dozen villages in Lorraine by a Belgian transporter at the request of a customer, a Belgian waste collection centre which believed to send its cargoes of waste to a French waste sorting centre, managed by a Lyon company, whose director says not being aware of such an agreement and denies having issued the delivery notes that he considers falsified. All these players were put in touch by an intermediary who admits having earned between "200 and 220,000 euros" with this transport of waste but denies having falsified the order forms and claims to have been the victim of another intermediary.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.demotivateur.fr/article/des-centaines-de-tonnes-de-dechets-illegaux-provenant-de-belgique-deverses-a-la-frontiere-francaise-21470>
<https://www.consoglobe.com/trafic-de-dechets-belgique-france-cg>

Case 9. Spain - Africa

Title 34 people arrested in Spain for illegal trafficking of electronic waste to Africa

Date 29-6-2020
Type of waste hazardous waste

Quantity/Value 138 shipments, and one stopped shipment of 2500 tonnes

Routes From Tenerife, Spain to Senegal, Ghana, Gambia, Togo, Benin, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal shipment of waste

Enforcement Action 34 people arrested by European and Spanish police

Criminal organisation African and European organised group

Summary	34 people mainly from Africa have been arrested by European and Spanish police for trafficking electronic waste to Africa. Between 2018 and 2019, 138 transfers of hazardous waste were carried out from Spain to Africa. According to the press release from the Spanish police, the network loaded in boat the waste and a 62-year-old Italian woman was responsible for transmitting the necessary documents to customs, falsifying certificates to make it appear that these devices were working perfectly.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.agenceecofin.com/actualites/2906-77986-34-personnes-arretees-en-espagne-pour-traffic-illegal-des-dechets-electroniques-a-destination-de-lafrique https://lanouvelletribune.info/2020/06/traffic-de-dechets-electroniques-vers-lafrique-34-personnes-arretees-en-espagne/

Case 10. Europe (mainly UK, Italy, Germany, France) to Turkey

Title	Turkey, Europe's new trash for plastic waste that is supposed to be recycled there
Date	27-5-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/ Value	582,000 tonnes in 2019
Routes	Europe (mainly UK, Italy, Germany, France) to Turkey
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Not proven to be illegal shipment but lack of control
Enforcement	NA
Action	
Criminal organisation	NA
Summary	The NGO Greenpeace warns of the exponential increase in exports of European plastic waste to Turkey, and its consequences for the environment.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.francetvinfo.fr/replay-radio/en-direct-du-monde/la-turquie-nouvelle-poubelle-de-leurope-pour-les-dechets-plastiques-qui-sont-censes-y-etre-recycles_3961483.html

Case 11. Romania – Malaysia – Indonesia

Title	1,800 tonnes of illegal toxic waste found abandoned in Malaysian port
Date	23-7-2020
Type of waste	Electric Arc Furnace Dust (EAFD), classified as toxic waste under the Basel Convention
Quantity/Value	110 containers containing 1,864 tonnes
Routes	From Romania, transit and seizure in Malaysia, destination was Indonesia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The Electric Arc Furnace Dust (toxic waste) was classified as concentrated zinc in declaration forms
Enforcement	
Action	The Malaysian Department of Environment (DOE) has contacted the Romanian Basel Convention authority to arrange the repatriation of the illegal waste shipment.
Criminal organisation	Unreported

Summary 110 containers of toxic electric arc furnace dust (EAFD) were found abandoned at Malaysia's Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) last month. The discarded waste is of Romanian origin, and was bound for Indonesia, entering the country illegally.

For more information, please visit: <https://resource.co/article/1800-tonnes-illegal-toxic-waste-found-abandoned-malaysian-port>

Case 12. Croatia – Italy - Africa

Title Control actions for cross-border shipments of waste in June

Date 2-7-2020

Type of waste waste tyres

Quantity/Value 13,2 tonnes

Routes From Croatia to Italy with as final destination Africa

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal shipment of waste

Enforcement Action Repatriation of shipment to country of destination, penalty for person who organized the shipment

Criminal organisation Unreported

Summary Illegal shipment of waste tyres (final destination was supposed to be Africa). Repatriation and alternative recovery of waste was agreed together with Croatian competent authority.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-07-02-akcije-nadzora-cezmejnega-posiljanja-odpadkov-v-mesecu-juniju/>

Case 13. Slovenia to Italy

Title Control actions to prevent the negligent management of sanitary waste, in order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 virus and other diseases

Date 28-7-2020

Type of waste Non-listed waste

Quantity/ Value 20 tonnes

Routes Slovenia to Italy

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi illegal shipment of waste

Enforcement Action Inspection and offence procedure pending

Criminal organisation Unreported

Summary Illegal shipment of waste sent from Slovenia to Italy because of inappropriate classification of waste (metals mixed with impurities such as earth, rubber, plastic) and consequently incorrect use of the procedure for cross-border shipment of waste.

For more information, please visit: [HTTPS://WWW.GOV.SI/NOVICE/2020-07-28-AKCIJE-NADZORA-ZA-PREPRECEVANJE-MALOMARNEGA-RAVNANJA-S-SANITARNIMI-ODPADKI-Z-NAMENOM-PREPRECITVE-SIRJENJA-VIRUSA-COVID-19-IN-DRUGIH-BOLEZNI/](https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-07-28-akcije-nadzora-za-preprecevanje-malomarnega-ravnanja-s-sanitarnimi-odpadki-z-namenom-preprecitve-sirjenja-virusa-covid-19-in-drugih-bolezni/)

Case 14. Netherlands - Belgium

Title Order subject to penalty for Chemours to prevent a repeat EWSR violation
Date 1-4-2020
Type of waste GenX waste
Routes The Netherlands to Belgium
Quantity/ Value Unreported
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Export without the correct permit
Criminal organisation One company
Enforcement action Order subject to a penalty

Summary A big chemical company has exported waste containing GenX to Belgium without applying for a new permit. Last year the company also exported GenX, while it should have had a separate permit not to contaminate other shipments. Therefore the inspection authorities are imposing an order subject to a penalty. This is a remedial sanction ordering a legal entity or natural person to do or not do something. The decision to impose an order subject to penalty specifies the deadline by which the offence or its consequences must be remedied, also referred to as the "compliance period". Failure to carry out the order or to carry it out by the specified deadline creates an obligation to pay a sum of money, also referred to as "forfeiture of a penalty".

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ilent.nl/onderwerpen/afvaltransport-evoa/nieuws/2020/04/01/last-onder-dwangsom-voor-chemours-om-herhaling-evoa-overtreding-te-voorkomen>

Case 15. Italy

Title Environment: illicit trafficking of 'luxury' waste, 8 people arrested
Date 18/6/20
Type of waste Naval waste (waste from luxury ships destroyed during a huge storm)
Routes na
Quantity/ Value 670 tons of untracked waste (from 435 destroyed ships)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi organized illicit activities for the illicit trafficking of waste, illicit competition, threat and violent acts, attempted murder and illicit possession of firearms
Criminal organisation criminal group composed by entrepreneurs, lawyers and professionals in the nautical sector
Enforcement action 8 people arrested. Issued decree for preventive confiscation of 3.6 million of EUR

Summary The criminal group, made by individuals and companies working in the nautical sector, was responsible of organizing the transport, storage, management and illicit disposal of waste coming from the disruption of 435 ships during a violent storm that took place in the region Liguria, in Italy, back in october 2018. They had put in place a complex system of management and disposal of illicit waste, gaining almost 3 millions euro. A key role was played by a subject originally based in Naples, who

involved representatives of Camorra and Ndrangheta to manage the entire illicit chain, with the final aim of penetrating the licit nautical sector in the north of Italy.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.lasiritide.it/out.php?articolo=17737>

Case 16. Italy

Title Waste, illicit trafficking discovered in Palermo. 5 people arrested, employees from RAP were also involved

13/07/2020

13/07/2020

Type of waste

Bulky waste coming from housing-relocations activities

Routes

na

Quantity/ Value

1000 tons

Type of crimes/

Illicit trafficking, treatment and disposal

Modus Operandi

Criminal

Two criminal groups - involvement of organized crime (Sicilian mafia) and of public officers working in the waste collection/treatment municipal company

organisation

Enforcement

5 people arrested, involvement of public workers from the waste-collection company

action

Summary

The investigation started back in novemeber 2018, after a reporting of illicit disposal of urban / bulky waste coming from relocation-related activities. The police discovered a well organized activity of collection, transport, treatment and finally illicit disposal of waste, hazardous and non-hazardous, made by two different criminal groups. All the activities were conducted without legal authorization, and the groups were able to use the dismantling tools of a public company thanks to the connivance of three public workers belonging to the company, now dismissed.

For more information, please visit:

https://palermo.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/07/13/news/rifiuti_scoperto_traffico_illecito_a_palermo_arresti_e_sequestri-261786045/

Case 17. Spain

Title 44 people arrested for irregularities in the management of Covid-related medical waste

Date

19/06/2020

Type of waste

Medical waste

Quantity/Value

na

Routes

na

Enforcement

500 inspections in companies in charge of medical waste: 184 administrative infractions in the management, transport and disposal of medical waste, especially masks and gloves possibly infected by Covid

Action

Type of crimes/

Illicit management and disposal

Modus Operandi

Criminal

300 companies inspected by Guardia Civil

organisation

Summary

The investigation activities were part of the biggest operation Retrovirus coordinated by Europol. More than 500 inspections were conducted in Spain by Guardia Civil, and 184 infractions have been reported with regard to irregularities in the management, transport and disposal of medical waste mainly related to the

Covid pandemia. These infractions are both dangerous for the pollution of the ecosystem and for the possible transmission of the virus.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/sociedad/20200619/operacion-guardia-civil-detenidos-irregularidades-empresas-gestion-residuos-sanitarios-coronavirus-8006089>

Annex III: IGO Enforcement Actions

Operation	RETROVIRUS
Organisation	EUROPOL, EnviCrimeNet and national authorities including the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment and Spatial Planning
Date	27-7-2020
Summary	The joint RETROVIRUS operation is coordinated by EUROPOL in cooperation with the EnviCrimeNet network. In addition to the representatives of the Inspectorate for the Environment and Nature, representatives of the FURS and the Police also participate in operational joint inspections. Operation RETROVIRUS aims to prevent "inappropriate" / illegal collection, transport, management and management of sanitary waste (contrary to international, EU and national legislation and international conventions) for activities against the spread and treatment of the COVID epidemic 19.
Link	https://www.gov.si/novice/2020-07-02-akcije-nadzora-cezmejnega-posiljanja-odpadkov-v-mesecu-juniju/

Annex IV: Videos and documentaries

Title	Why is UK recycling being dumped by Turkish roadsides?
Organisation	Basel Action Network
Type of waste	Plastic
Date	26-6-2020
Summary	An investigation by BBC News has found that some plastic waste from Britain (160,000 tonnes) sent to Turkey for recycling is instead being dumped and burned on the side of roads. The UK sends more plastic waste to Turkey than to any other country, but critics say the country doesn't have the capacity to recycle its own waste, let alone the tens of thousands of tonnes being sent from overseas.
Link	https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-53181948/why-is-uk-recycling-being-dumped-by-turkish-roadsides
Title	Unauthorized landfills, full of Belgian waste dumped illegally, pollute French Lorraine
Organisation	France 2
Type of waste	Rubber and household waste
Date	25-6-2020
Summary	Several hundred tons of rubber and other household waste were dumped illegally in a dozen villages in Lorraine by a Belgian transporter at the request of a customer, a Belgian waste collection centre which believed to send its cargoes of waste to a French waste sorting centre, managed by a Lyon company, whose director says not being aware of such an agreement and denies having issued the delivery notes that he considers falsified. All these players were put in touch by an intermediary who admits having earned between "200 and 220,000 euros" with this transport of waste but denies having falsified the order forms and claims to have been the victim of another intermediary.
Link	https://www.demotivateur.fr/article/des-centaines-de-tonnes-de-dechets-illegaux-provenant-de-belgique-deverses-a-la-frontiere-francaise-21470



WasteForce Crime Alert #8

September - November 2020

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Version: 1

Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE

Waste Crime Alert 8

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The WasteForce project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open-source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications, policy updates and relevant videos and documentaries. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #8 summarises information that was published between September and November 2020. The Waste Crime Alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

- Introduction
- Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
- Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex II
- Summary of Media, see also the overview in Annex III
- Summary of News cases published, see also the overview in Annex IV

2. Summary of new publications and legislative and governance updates. ([Annex I](#))

In this section a summary will be presented of recent articles and reports about waste crime and legislation. A summary and references to each publication can also be found in Annex I.

Legislation and governance

Waste Management Review reported China will ban all imports of solid waste from 1 January 2021. According to a notice issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory will also be banned.

The *European Court of Auditors* published review No 04/2020, which examines the EU's response to the growing problem of plastic waste with a focus on plastic packaging waste. One of the areas of focus of the review is waste trafficking. It reports the Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law is currently under review. Figure 1 gives a theoretical example of how illegal international plastic packaging waste trafficking can take place.

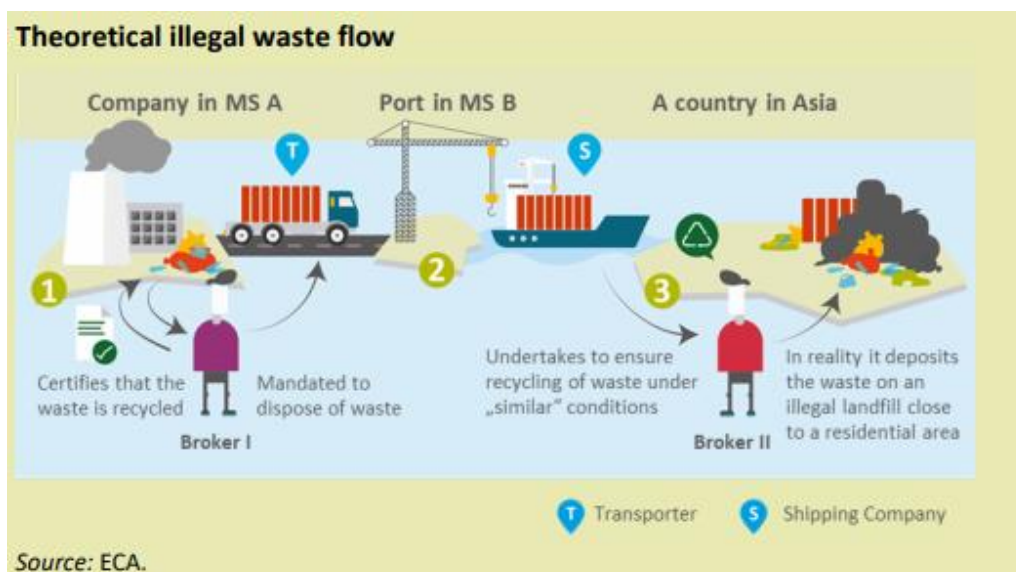


Figure 1: Theoretical traffic of plastic packaging waste (European Court of Auditors, 2020:p44) https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/RW20_04/RW_Plastic_waste_EN.pdf

The *European Court of Law* published a reference for a preliminary ruling on the term wastewater – sewage sludge. The court ruled that sewage sludge generated during the joint treatment of industrial and residential or municipal wastewater in a sewage treatment plant, which is incinerated in a waste incineration plant for the purposes of energy recovery by generating steam, must be regarded as not being waste if the conditions in Article 6(1) of Directive 2008/98 are already met before its incineration.

Articles and publications

Plastic waste

In Annex II, 8 articles and publications about plastic waste are listed. In the Netherlands, the newspaper/non-profit media organisation *NRC* and *Lighthouse reports* examined what happened with plastic waste. A study showed that non-recyclable plastic waste from the Netherlands is illegally exported to Turkey, where it was found on garbage dumps and in nature. The export of plastic waste to Turkey has highly increased since the ban on the import of waste in China. It was also discovered that the plastic waste that is dumped or burned abroad, is counted in Dutch statistics as recycled waste. The industry only measures the plastic that has been sorted for recycling, not how much plastic is made into a new product. An overview of the articles resulting from the study can be found in the Lighthouse reports plastic waste newsroom (see Annex I).

In Spain, an article by the Spanish Information Journal *Verde Y Azul* describes how the licit and illicit trafficking of plastic waste from Europe, and in particular from Spain, has changed its main routes to South-East Asia after the Chinese ban issued in 2018. It also describes the issue of fires emerging in Spain, where the capacity to legally dispose plastic waste is currently not sufficient.

Science Advances published an article about the United States' contribution of plastic waste to land and ocean and *UNEP* published an interactive story about plastic pollution and why it's time for a change.

Statista published an overview of statistics on plastic waste in Europe. Data is collected on different topics such as the global plastic material flows from 1950 to 2017, the plastic production and demand, the plastic waste generation, the plastic recycling and treatment and the plastic waste trade. *The World Counts* also published an overview of plastic waste facts.

E-waste

A report of *EFFACE* examined the case of illegal shipments of e-waste from the EU to China and the effectiveness of EU legislation to counter these shipments. Although the import of e-waste into China has been officially banned since 2000, it is estimated that around 8 million tonnes of e-waste are imported illegally into China every year. Despite empirical data suffering from high uncertainties, the scale of the e-waste trade, its environmental and health impacts, and its links to crime are difficult to contest.

Shipbreaking

The Icelandic program *Kveikur* published an investigation on the illegal export of containerships to the Indian beach of Alang for shipbreaking. The case is under investigation, see also Videos and Documentaries.

Fire extinguisher foam

The research journalist platform *The Monitor* published a study showing that at least 210,000 tonnes of old fire-extinguisher foam is waiting for a safe and definitive end in Europe. It was also found that the Netherlands exports foam concentrates containing PFAS.

COVID-19

EUROPOL published a study on how COVID-related crime infected Europe. It describes the trafficking and disposal of medical waste as one of the crime threats.

3. Summary of IGO Enforcement action ([Annex II](#))

Operation DEMETER VI, coordinated by the World Customs Organisation, tackled illegal transboundary shipments of waste and ozone depleting substances. The enforcement effort resulted in a total of 131 seizures, with almost 99,000 tonnes of waste and approximately 42 tonnes of ozone depleting substances. Almost 92% of the seized waste consisted of metal waste and about 7% of plastic waste. Most of the seizures of waste were reported by Belgium, Canada, China, Poland, and Denmark, while most of the seizures of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol were performed in Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark and Poland.



Figure 2: Operation DEMETER VI thwarts transboundary shipments of illegal waste and ozone depleting substances. WCO (2020). <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2020/october/operation-demeter-vi-thwarts-transboundary-shipments-of-illegal-waste-and-ozone-depleting-substances.aspx>

4. Summary of media ([Annex III](#))

In Annex III three videos are listed: a documentary about ships that are exported illegally from Iceland for shipbreaking in India; an audio clip about plastic waste that is illegally exported from the Netherlands to Turkey; and an awareness video clip about the risks related to the current level of plastics use and production, in terms of illicit trafficking, disposal and pollution.

5. Analysis of news cases ([Annex IV](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between September 2020 and November 2020. In total, 10 cases were collected, of which an overview can also be found in Annex IV.

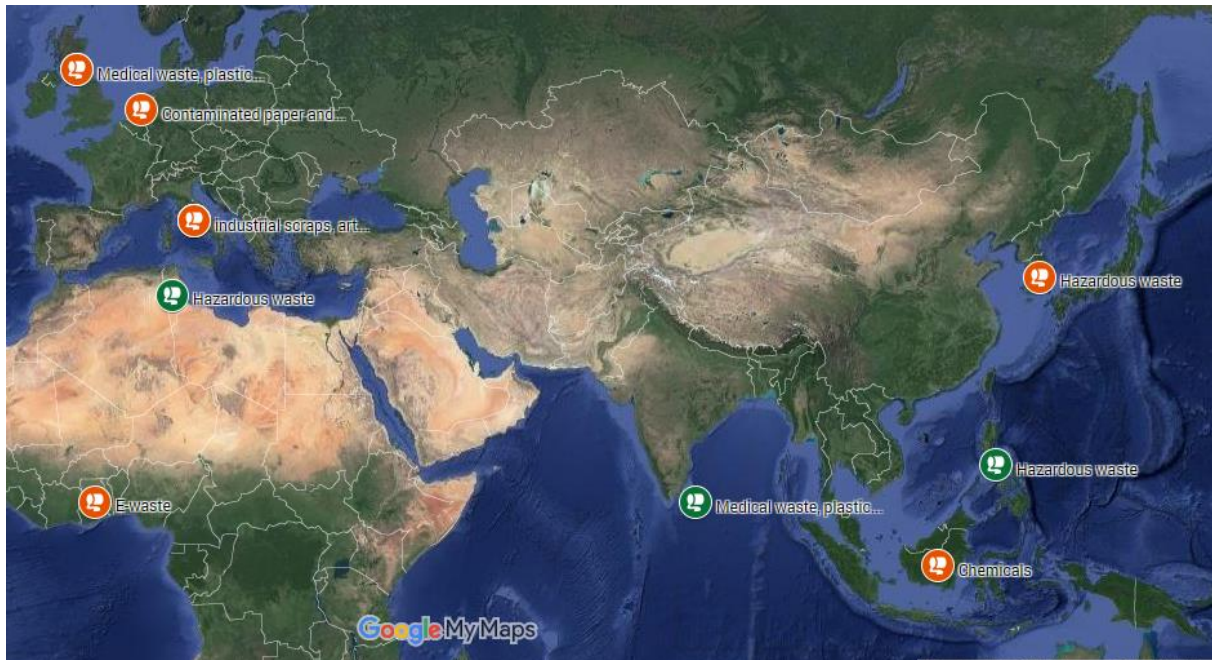




Figure 2: Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the origin or destination country

For more information follow this [Link](#).

-  Origin country or national case
-  Destination country or national case

Types of waste and routes

Type of waste reported	Routes and case numbers
E-waste	Ghana (case 2)
	Italy (case 7)
	Italy (case 9)
Hazardous waste	South Korea - Philippines (case 6)
	Italy - Tunisia (case 10)
Plastic waste	United Kingdom - Sri Lanka (case 1)
	Netherlands - countries in Europe and Africa (case 5)
Medical waste	United Kingdom - Sri Lanka (case 1)
	Italy - Tunisia (case 10)
Mixed waste (household, industry, paper)	United Kingdom (case 3)
	Italy (case 7)
Metal waste	Italy (case 8)
	Italy (case 9)
ELVs	Italy (case 9)
Chemicals	Indonesia (case 4)

Table 8: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

Quantities and values

Quantities

In 5 cases the quantities of waste illegally shipped and/or the number of containers that shipped the waste were reported:

- In case 1, 21 containers, containing 260 tonnes of hazardous waste (clinical and plastic waste) were shipped from the United Kingdom to Sri Lanka.
- In case 5, there was contamination of non-paper substances in 22 containers in Rotterdam, and 7 containers were found in Antwerp, Belgium containing a mix of recyclable plastic and dangerous substances destined for Asia.
- In case 6, in total 7,408 metric tons of hazardous waste in 364 containers was illegally exported from South Korea to the Philippines. The last batch of 43 containers weighted 1036 tonnes.
- In case 7, 24,000 tons of industrial scraps, artisanal scraps and e-waste was illegally trafficked. Operation of Italian Carabinieri NOE also resulted in the seizure of 7 companies involved in the waste treatment, 9 warehouses and trucks for a total value of about 6 million euro.
- In case 10, 120 tonnes of hazardous waste (including hospital waste) in 70 containers were illegally exported and repatriated.

In total, in the articles of this WCA, 31.788 tonnes of waste were reported to be illegally traded.

Values

Two operations resulted in the seizure of proceeds of crime. In case 8, operation Dirty Iron, resulted in the seizure of materials with a total value of around 1 million euro. In case 9, Operation "Efesto 2" resulted in the seizure of 10 million euro of proceeds of crime. The estimated value of the illicit waste trafficking was 2 million euro.

Modus operandi

In three cases there were false declarations of waste exports. In case 1, there was illegal export of hazardous waste including hospital waste, while the shipment was declared as used mattresses, carpets, and rugs. In case 5, the waste was declared as clean recyclable waste, such as paper, cardboard, and plastics, but the waste was contaminated or mixed waste. In case 6, there was illegal export of hazardous waste, wrongly declared as plastic synthetic flakes. In case 10, there was illegal export of waste including hospital waste. It was not reported how the shipments were declared.

Three cases involved treatment facilities that falsely declared treatment of the waste. In case 7, there was illegally trafficking of waste to legal treatment plants, where it was illegally dumped. In case 8, the waste was transferred to a storage plant, where, according to documents, it was cleaned and regularised, while the criminal organisation also illicitly dumped the waste. The reporting also contained false indications on the origin, transportation, and the quantities. In case 9, there was also organised activity of waste trafficking and recycling, and false declaration of correct treatment. The organisation also weighted, burnt and hidden illegal metal waste under legal waste, before selling it to third buyers.

Illegal burning and dumping

In case 2, there was illegal open burning of e-waste by scrap dealers in Ghana. In cases 3 and 4 there was illegal dumping of waste.

Criminal organisations

In two cases (5 and 6) a company was responsible for the illegal shipments of waste. In case 2, eight scrap dealers were involved in the burning of e-waste. In three cases (7, 8 and 9) a criminal network/criminal organisation was involved. In case 7, the criminal network involved 7 companies and 9 warehouses, in case 8 it was created by the management of a company and in case 9, the network involved 3 companies operating in the waste sector. In case 1,3 and 4 was not reported who was behind the waste crime.

Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title	China to ban all solid waste imports from Jan 2021
Organisation	Reported by Waste Management Review
Type of waste	All solid waste
Date	1-12-2020
Summary	China will ban all imports of solid waste from 1 January 2021, authorities have said. According to a notice issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory will also be banned. The total ban is the culmination of policies introduced in 2017 to phase out the import of solid waste. In late 2017 China banned the import of 24 types of solid waste, including unsorted paper, textiles and vanadium slag.
Links	https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/china-to-ban-all-solid-waste-imports-from-jan-2021/
Title	Review No 04/2020: EU action to tackle the issue of plastic waste
Organisation	European Court of Auditors
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Date	6-10-2020
Summary	This review examines the EU's response to the growing problem of plastic waste with a focus on plastic packaging waste. The EU's 2018 plastics strategy proposes measures aiming to improve recyclability, collection, sorting, recycling, and recycled content of plastic products. The revised Packaging and Packaging Waste directive set new plastic packaging recycling targets for 2025 (50 %) and 2030 (55 %). New stricter reporting rules will likely lead the EU's reported average plastic packaging recycling rate to drop. Even for plastic packaging, the most developed arm of the plastics strategy, concerted action by stakeholders at EU and Member State level will be required to bridge the considerable gap between the current recycling rate and where we need to be in only 5 to 10 years' time. One of the areas of focus of the review is waste trafficking. It reports the Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law is currently under review.
Links	https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=55223 https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/RW20_04/RW_Plastic_waste_EN.pdf
Title	Reference for a preliminary ruling – Environment – Waste – Directive 2008/98/EC – Article 2(2)(a), point 1 of Article 3 and Article 6(1) – Wastewater – Sewage sludge – Scope – Concept of ‘waste’ – Cessation of waste status – Recovery or recycling operation
Organisation	European Union law (EUR-Lex)
Type of waste	Sewage sludge (municipal / industrial wastewater)
Date	14-10-2020
Summary	The court made a statement regarding criteria for end-of-life waste:

The court ruled: Article 2(2)(a), point 1 of Article 3 and Article 6(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives must be interpreted as meaning that sewage sludge generated during the joint treatment of industrial and residential or municipal waste water in a sewage treatment plant, which is incinerated in a waste incineration plant for the purposes of energy recovery by generating steam, must be regarded as not being waste if the conditions in Article 6(1) of Directive 2008/98 are already met before its incineration. It is for the referring court to determine whether that is the case in the main proceedings.

Link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62019CJ0629>

Articles

Plastic

Title **Plastic Waste: how a Dutch bag of liquorice could have ended up on the Turkish roadside (Dutch Hoe een Nederlands dropzakje kon eindigen in een Turkse berm)**

Organisation NRC

Date 16-10-2020

Type of waste Plastic waste

Summary A study of NRC and Lighthouse reports showed that Dutch plastic waste is illegally being dumped in Turkey. It was found there on garbage dumps, wasteland and in nature. Different Dutch brands of food and drink products were found in the region of Adana, close to the boarder with Syria. It is illegal to export non-recyclable plastic waste to countries outside of the EU. The export of plastic waste to Turkey has highly increased since the ban on the import of waste in China. Turkey tries to control the waste flows and is becoming stricter to limit the import of waste.

Links <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2020/10/16/plastic-afval-hoe-een-nederlands-dropzakje-kon-eindigen-in-een-turkse-berm-a4016112>
<https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2020/10/19/wat-doet-ons-plastic-afval-in-turkije-a4016459>

Title **Playing hide and seek with recycled plastic (Dutch)**

Organisation NRC

Date 18-10-2020

Type of waste Plastic waste

Summary Dutch plastic waste that is burned or dumped abroad is counted in statistics as recycled waste. The industry only measures what has been sorted, not what is really made into a new product. In sorted bales of plastic is still a lot of dirt and moisture, therefore the weight of the waste is often overestimated. It is also uncertain if the recycle is really recycled, because there is a low demand for this product.

Link <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2020/10/18/verstoppertje-spelen-met-gerecycled-plastic-a4016329>

Title **Plastic waste newsroom (Dutch)**

Organisation Lighthouse reports

Date NA

Type of waste Plastic waste

Summary An overview of articles published by Lighthouse reports about plastic waste.

Link	https://www.lighthousereports.nl/ourprojects/2020/10/16/plastic-waste-newsroom
Title	Our planet is drowning in plastic pollution
Organisation	UNEP
Date	NA
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become addicted to single-use or disposable plastic — with severe environmental consequences. Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In total, half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once — and then thrown away. Plastic waste is now so ubiquitous in the natural environment that scientists have even suggested it could serve as a geological indicator of the Anthropocene era. So how did we get here?
Link	https://www.unenvironment.org/interactive/beat-plastic-pollution/
Title	Plastic waste in Europe - Statistics & Facts
Organisation	Statista
Date	10-11-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	Since plastics first became popular more than half a century ago, annual production has increased significantly. In 1950, global plastic production amounted to 1.5 million metric tons. In comparison, 359 million metric tons was produced in 2018, of which 61.8 million metric tons were produced in Europe. Much of the plastic demand in Europe is for the packaging sector.
Link	https://www.statista.com/topics/5141/plastic-waste-in-europe/
Title	What happens to the Plastic you throw away?
Organisation	The World Counts
Date	NA
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	Plastic is one of the most widely used and cheapest materials in the world today. You can find it anywhere. If it's not made from plastic, it's wrapped in plastic. We use around 5 trillion plastic bags a year worldwide! The US alone throws away enough plastic bottles in a week to encircle the world 5 times. Only 1 to 3% of all plastics used are recycled. After we use them, we throw them away.
Link	https://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/plastic-waste-facts
Title	New routes of Spanish dirty plastic towards Asian countries (Nuevas rutas del plástico 'sucio' español hacia países asiáticos)
Organisation	Verde y Azul (Spanish information journal)
Date	19-10-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	The article describes how the licit and illicit trafficking of plastic waste from Europe, and in particular from Spain, has changed its main routes to South-East Asia after the Chinese ban issued in 2018. It also describes the issue of fires emerged in Spain, where the capacity to legally dispose plastic waste is currently not enough.

Link <https://verdeyazul-diarioinformacion-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/verdeyazul.diarioinformacion.com/nuevas-rutas-del-plastico-sucio-espanol-hacia-paises-asiaticos.html/amp>

Title **The United States' contribution of plastic waste to land and ocean.**
Organisation Science Advances
Date 30-10-2020
Type of waste Plastic waste
Summary Plastic waste affects environmental quality and ecosystem health. In 2010, an estimated 5 to 13 million metric tons (Mt) of plastic waste entered the ocean from both developing countries with insufficient solid waste infrastructure and high-income countries with very high waste generation. We demonstrate that, in 2016, the United States generated the largest amount of plastic waste of any country in the world (42.0 Mt). Between 0.14 and 0.41 Mt of this waste was illegally dumped in the United States, and 0.15 to 0.99 Mt was inadequately managed in countries that imported materials collected in the United States for recycling. Accounting for these contributions, the amount of plastic waste generated in the United States estimated to enter the coastal environment in 2016 was up to five times larger than that estimated for 2010, rendering the United States' contribution among the highest in the world.

Link <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/44/eabd0288>

Fire extinguisher foam

Title **Fire extinguisher foam: a chemical time bomb that the Netherlands is passing on to its neighbours**

Organisation De Monitor
Date 8-10-2020
Type of waste Fire Extinguisher Foam
Summary Fire extinguishers are replaced regularly. The problem is that extinguishing foam is full of PFAS: chemical compounds, with great risks to human health and the environment, which are very difficult and have great costs to clean up. In Europe, at least 210,000 tons of old fire-fighting foam is waiting for a safe and definitive end. The organisation "Follow the Money", found out the waste is first processed in the Netherlands, but the remaining foam concentrates containing PFAS are exported abroad. How much is exactly exported is unknown, as its reported as a subcategory of other waste.

Link <https://demonitor.kro-ncrv.nl/artikelen/blusschuim-een-chemische-tijdbom-die-nederland-neerlegt-bij-de-buren>

Waste

Title **Hempstead Town raises fine for illegal dumping to \$10K**
Organisation LiHerald
Date 24-9-2020
Type of waste Waste

Summary The Town of Hempstead Board voted at a Sept. 8 virtual meeting to increase the fine for illegal dumping in the town from \$1,500 to \$10,000 per incident. Town Supervisor Donald Clavin said the board is worried about a potential spike in illegal dumping once the Town of Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, closes its last landfill in 2024.

Link <https://www.liherald.com/stories/hempstead-town-raises-fine-for-illegal-dumping-to-10k,127905?>

E-waste

Title **Illegal shipment of e-waste from the EU: A case study on illegal e-waste export from the EU to China**

Organisation EFFACE

Date

Type of waste E-waste

Summary This report examines the case of illegal shipments of e-waste from the EU to China and the effectiveness of EU legislation to counter these shipments. Although the import of e-waste into China has been officially banned since 2000, it is estimated that around 8 million tonnes of e-waste are imported illegally into China every year. Despite empirical data suffering from high uncertainties, the scale of the e-waste trade, its environmental and health impacts, and its links to crime are difficult to contest.

Link <https://efface.eu/illegal-shipment-e-waste-eu-case-study-illegal-e-waste-export-eu-china>

Shipbreaking

Title **Prosecutor launches investigation after Icelandic journalists shed light on illegal export of toxic ships to India**

Organisation NGO SHIPBREAKING PLATFORM

Date 25-9-2020

Type of waste End-of-Life Ships

Summary Icelandic program Kveikur released yesterday an investigation on the murky sale of two ships owned by Icelandic company Eimskip. In a documentary broadcasted by radio and television Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV), Kveikur uncovers the illegal export of the container ships GODAFOSS and LAXFOSS to the Indian beach of Alang for dirty and dangerous scrapping. The Icelandic authorities have confirmed that the case has been brought to the public prosecutor for further investigation.

Link <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/breach-eu-wsr-godafoss-laxfoss/>

Covid-19

Title **How COVID-19-related crime infected Europe during 2020.**

Organisation EUROPOL

Date 11-11-2020

Type of waste Medical waste

Summary In its report "how COVID-19-related crime infected Europe, EUROPOL also describes the trafficking and disposal of medical waste as one of the crime threats: The COVID-19 crisis has also represented a sanitary emergency with a significant impact on waste management, posing risk both to the environment and public health. Increase in medical waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic has also created opportunities for OCGs to traffic and illegally dispose of medical waste.

Link https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/how_covid-19-related_crime_infected_europe_during_2020.pdf

Annex II: IGO Enforcement Actions

Title	Operation DEMETER VI thwarts transboundary shipments of illegal waste and ozone depleting substances
Organisation and partners	Various partners rallied in support of Operation DEMETER VI, with 73 Customs administrations joining forces. The WCO Secretariat, the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) for Asia/Pacific and Western Europe, as well as China Customs all played leading roles in the Operation, establishing the Operational Coordination Unit in the Asia/Pacific RILO based in Seoul, Korea. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) also supported the Operation by assisting WCO Members with enhanced risk information. In addition, the other nine WCO RILOs, the WCO-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Container Control Programme, INTERPOL, Europol, the EU Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention as well as the staff of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction ensured a collective approach in support of Operation DEMETER VI.
Date	29-10-2020
Summary	<p>Using risk indicators and focusing on pre-identified routings and hotspots, Customs officers managed to control suspicious shipments, stop unlicensed trade and seize illegal waste and substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. Despite the measures in place to counter the Covid-19 pandemic imposing some restrictions on Customs operational capacity, this concerted enforcement effort resulted in a total of 131 seizures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Almost 99,000 tonnes of waste and an additional 78,000 pieces of waste materials (not weighed), as well as -Approximately 42 tonnes of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. <p>Five countries reported most of the seizures of waste products: Belgium, Canada, China, Poland, and Denmark, while most of the seizures of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol were performed in Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, and Poland.</p> <p>About 92% of the seized waste commodities consisted of metal waste (90,872 tonnes), and about 7% consisted of various types of plastic waste (6,859 tonnes). Other commodities seized included machines and electric/electronic waste, waste from production and manufacturing, other industrial waste, contaminated used clothing, municipal waste, used tyres, waste solar panels, paper waste, textile waste, and mixed wood waste.</p> <p>Concerning the seized substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, nearly 75% were HFCs (over 31 tonnes), which are mostly used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems, in the manufacture of foams and insulating materials, as well as fire extinguishing agents. Although HFCs are non-ozone depleting gases,</p>

they are very potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and climate change.

Under the Kigali Amendment, Montreal Protocol Parties are required to gradually phase down HFC production and use. The first reductions commenced in 2019 for most developed countries, which will be followed by a halt of HFC production and consumption levels between 2024 and 2028.

The efforts by the WCO and its partners to address environmental risks will continue to intensify, with more enforcement initiatives planned for the future.

Operation DEMETER VI

73 Customs Administrations
joining forces

131 seizures, including:

- Almost **99,000 tonnes** of waste and an additional **78,000 pieces** of waste materials (not weighed),
- Approximately **42 tonnes** of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

- **92% of metal waste (90,872 tonnes),**
- **7% of various types of plastic waste (6,859 tonnes),**
- machines and electric/electronic waste,
- waste from production and manufacturing,
- other industrial waste,
- contaminated used clothing,
- etc.



Source: WCO (2020). Operation DEMETER VI thwarts transboundary shipments of illegal waste and ozone depleting substances.

Links

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2020/october/operation-demeter-vi-thwarts-transboundary-shipments-of-illegal-waste-and-ozone-depleting-substances.aspx>

<https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/global-customs-operation-bags-31-tonnes-of-illegal-hfcs/>

Annex III: Videos and documentaries

Title	What is our plastic waste doing in Turkey?
Type	Audio Clip (Dutch)
Date	19-10-2020
Organisation	NRC Vandaag
Summary	The Netherlands is producing more waste than they can process. Much More. Therefore, they are more and more exporting our waste to Turkey to get it recycled there. This seems like a practical solution, but is it really being recycled? What happens to the waste in Turkey.
Link	https://art19.com/shows/vandaag/episodes/9b8e4d99-84f9-4ab2-ba81-55ef417721f
Title	Where Eimskip's ships go to die
Type	Documentary

Date	24-9-2020
Organisation	Kveikur
Summary	Kveikur returns for a new series this evening with a hard-hitting exposé of Iceland's recent role in the ongoing environmental and human rights tragedies unfolding in southeast Asian ship breaking yards, in blatant breach of European law.
Link	https://www.ruv.is/kveikur/where-ships-go-to-die/
Title	Contamination for plastics
Type	Awareness Video clip
Date	10-20
Organisation	UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Summary	Awareness video explaining the risks related to the current level of plastics use, and consequent production of plastic waste, in terms of illicit trafficking, disposal and pollution.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkE3XvaK444

Annex IV: Cases reported in the news

Case 1. United Kingdom – Sri Lanka

Title	Sri Lanka returns 21 containers of illegal waste to Britain
Date	28-9-2020
Type of waste	Medical waste, plastic waste
Quantity/Value	21 containers, 260 tonnes of waste, plastic waste, clinical waste rated as extremely hazardous
Routes	United Kingdom – Sri Lanka – United Kingdom
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export (the containers were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and rugs, but also contained hospital waste).
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	Unreported
Summary	Sri Lanka has shipped back to Britain container-loads of waste that the Colombo government said were brought into the island in violation of international laws governing the shipping of hazardous material. The 21 containers – holding up to 260 tonnes of rubbish – first arrived by ship in the capital Colombo's main port between September 2017 and March 2018, customs told AFP, adding that they departed Sri Lanka on Saturday. They were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and rugs, but also contained hospital waste, officials said.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.wionews.com/videos/sri-lanka-returns-21-containers-of-illegal-waste-to-britain-330856 https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/27/sri-lanka-returns-waste-to-britain

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/27/sri-lanka-returns-containers-of-illegal-waste-to-britain>
<https://ipen.org/news/sri-lanka-court-orders-illegal-waste-back-uk>

Case 2. Ghana

Title	EPA, Police arrest 8 scrap dealers for burning e-waste materials
Date	28-8-2020
Type of waste	E-waste
Quantity/Value	Unreported
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal open burning of e-waste
Enforcement	Arrests
Action	
Criminal organisation	Involvement of eight scrap dealers
Summary	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the Accra Regional Police Command last Friday arrested eight scrap dealers for allegedly engaging in open burning of electronic waste (e-waste) at Agbobloshie in Accra. The arrest forms part of the agency's resolve to end open burning in the country. This also follows the passing of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act (Act 917) by Parliament in 2016 and the launching of the Integrated E-Waste Management Programme for Ghana in 2018.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/epa-police-arrest-8-scrap-dealers-for-burning-e-waste-materials.html#:~:text=The%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency%20(EPA.open%20burning%20in%20the%20country.

Case 3. United Kingdom

Title	Truck involved in major flytipping across Burnley seized by council and crushed
Date	21-10-2020
Type of waste	Waste
Quantity/Value	Waste
Routes	Local in the United Kingdom
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal dumping of waste with trucks
Enforcement	Truck that was used for illegal dumping has been seized and crushed.
Action	
Criminal organisation	Unreported
Summary	A vehicle that had been involved in at least two incidents of illegal waste dumping has been seized by the council and crushed. A video posted on social media by Burnley Borough Council shows the truck, which was seen fly tipping across the borough on numerous occasions, being raised into the air by an industrial crane before being dropped from a height and crushed.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/18809420.truck-involved-major-flytipping-across-burnley-seized-council-crushed/>

Case 4. Indonesia

Title Lorry to get tested for illegal waste
Date 8-10-2020
Type of waste Liquid and semi-solid organic compounds (chemicals)
Quantity/Value Unknown
Routes NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illegal dumping of waste
Enforcement Action Forensic tests will be carried out on an 18-wheeler seized in Kota Baru to establish if it carried waste in an illegal dumping incident in an industrial area in Nilai.
Criminal organisation Unreported
Summary Forensic tests will be carried out on an 18-wheeler seized in Kota Baru to establish if it carried waste in an illegal dumping incident in an industrial area in Nilai, which led to the closure of two water treatment plants in Selangor.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/10/08/lorry-to-get-tested-for-illegal-waste>

Case 5. Netherlands - Countries in Europe and Asia

Title Company pays to the State within the framework of European waste regulations
Date 7-10-2020
Type of waste Contaminated paper and plastic
Quantity/Value During inspections in Rotterdam from September 2012 to January 2013, authorities found that of 22 of the 37 containers checked, that there was contamination with non-paper substances. In the port of Antwerp, Belgium customs found 7 containers from the company, which a mix of recyclable plastic and other dangerous substances, with as destination Asia.
Routes From Ireland to the Netherlands, from the Netherlands to Belgium destined for Asia.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi The company trades recyclable waste such as paper, cardboard and plastics from Europe to countries such as Asia. This should concern "clean" waste streams that are not contaminated with other waste materials. Based on the investigation by the police, the Public Prosecution Service concluded that Peute received containers with contaminated or mixed waste from Ireland in the year 2012 and January 2013 and that containers with contaminated waste were sent by Peute to Asia. The Public Prosecution Service has come to the conclusion that this happened without prior permission or in violation of a prohibition, and that as a result, it was in violation of the European rules for the shipment of waste (EVOA).
Enforcement Action Infringements of WSR settled for €135.000

Criminal organisation Summary	Company
	The company trades recyclable waste such as paper, cardboard and plastics from Europe to countries such as Asia. This should concern "clean" waste streams that are not contaminated with other waste materials. Based on the investigation by the police, the Public Prosecution Service concluded that Peute received containers with contaminated or mixed waste from Ireland in the year 2012 and January 2013 and that containers with contaminated waste were sent by Peute to Asia. The Public Prosecution Service has concluded that this happened without prior permission or in violation of a prohibition, and that as a result, it was in violation of the European rules for the shipment of waste (EVOA).
For more information, please visit:	https://www.om.nl/documenten/publicaties/fp-hoge-transacties/feitenrelaas/map/feitenrelaas-peute

Case 6. South Korea – Philippines

Title	Customs completes reshipment of hazardous waste to South Korea
Date	9-10-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	In total 7,408 metric tons, 364 containers. The last batch of 43 containers weighted 1036 tonnes.
Routes	From South Korea to the Phillipines and reshipment back to South Korea.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The South Korean waste shipments were wrongly declared as “plastic synthetic flakes” and weighing about 6,500 tons arrived in Northern Mindanao in July and October 2018.
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation Summary	Imported by a company in the Philippines. The Bureau of Customs (BoC) has completed the reshipment of 7,408 metric tons of hazardous waste from South Korea. Cagayan de Oro District Collector John Simon confirmed that the last batch of 43 containers of illegal waste shipment weighing 1,036 metric tons were already shipped back to its port of origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea, more than two years after it arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/08/news/latest-stories/customs-completes-reshipment-of-hazardous-waste-to-south-korea/777994/ https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/04/re-shipment-of-remaining-trash-imports-from-s-korea-lauded/

Case 7. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste: maxi operation of NOE in Milan, also in the Expo area
Date	21-10-2020
Type of waste	Industrial waste, e-waste
Quantity/Value	24,000 tons of industrial scraps, artisanal scraps, e-waste

Routes	Inside Italian territory
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Transfer of waste illicitly stocked to apparently legal treatment plants, where instead thousands of tons of industrial scraps and e-waste were illicitly dumped
Enforcement Action	Operation of Italian Carabinieri NOE brought to 15 precautionary measures and seizure of 7 companies involved in the waste treatment, 9 warehouses and trucks for a total value of about 6 million euro.
Criminal organisation Summary	Criminal network involved The investigation started after a similar one originating from the explosion of fires in different warehouses in the North of Italy (Pavia). The investigation revealed the illicit trafficking of waste in the North of Italy, but also from the South to the North of the country, where metal scraps, industrial scraps and e-waste were illicitly dumped in treatment plants operating illegally.
For more information, please visit:	https://fivedabliu.it/2020/10/21/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-maxi-operazione-del-noe-di-milano-anche-nellarea-expo/

Case 8. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste in San Tammaro: 8 precautionary measures carried out by the Carabinieri in Caserta
Date	16-9-2020
Type of waste	ferrous scraps
Quantity/Value	Seizure of materials for a total value of about 1 million EUR
Routes	Inside Italian territory
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Once waste was transferred to the storage plant, they were 'cleaned' and 'regularized' from a documentary formal perspective. The reports to identify the types of waste were produced ad hoc, as they presented false indications on the real origin and the transportation of ferrous scraps, as well as about the quantities. The entire management of the company 'SIDER RECUPERI' was involved: they created a criminal organisation aimed at illicitly dumping ferrous scraps, gaining about 175,000 EUR.
Enforcement Action	Operation Dirty Iron, dealing with illicit dumping of special waste. 8 precautionary measures for the following criminal activities: organized activity of illicit waste trafficking; criminal association; illicit management of waste.
Criminal organisation Summary	Criminal organisation created by the management of the company 'Sider Recuperi', aimed at illicitly dumping ferrous scraps. A complex investigation named Dirty Iron and dealing with the illicit dumping of special waste, in particular metal (ferrous) scraps, brought to reveal a criminal network created by an apparently licit treatment plant which was instead operating illegally, by illicitly cleaning and regularizing special waste and creating ad hoc reports giving false indications on their actual origin and quantity.
For more information, please visit:	https://casertaweb.com/notizie/traffico-illecito-rifiuti-san-tammaro-otto-misure-cautelari-eseguite-dai-carabinieri-del-n-caserta/

Case 9. Italy

Title	Operation 'Efesto 2' on illicit trafficking of waste
Date	14-10-2020

Type of waste	Copper cables, lead batteries, waste oil, WEEE, ELVs, ferrous scraps
Quantity/Value	The value of the illicit trafficking was 2 million EUR / yearly
Routes	Inside Italian territory
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illicit organized activity of waste trafficking and recycling of cables and copper artefacts. The owners of the identified company made the society available as the main centre of waste trafficking and copper. There, the metal was recovered, weighed, burnt, and hidden under loads apparently legal, before being sold to third buyers.
Enforcement Action	Operation Efesto 2: seizure for 10 million euro + 61 precautionary measures.
Criminal organisation	Organized criminal activity and network.
Summary	3 companies operating in the waste sector and trade of ferrous scraps were instead committing organized criminal activity of waste trafficking, receipt of stolen goods, illicit recycling of cables and other crop artefacts. They produced the illicit documentation to simulate the traceability of waste and crops, this one even stolen from telecommunication infrastructures. Transportation vehicles were also illegally demolished, and the engines sold in other regions of the country, with false declaration of the correct treatment of waste oil and other polluting substances.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.linchiestaquotidiano.it/news/2020/10/14/operazione-efesto-2-sul-traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-un-s/35059

Case 10. Italy

Title	Tunisia: the state will send back more than 120 tonnes of hazardous waste to Italy
Date	5-11-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste, notably hospital waste
Quantity/ Value	70 containers containing 120 tonnes of waste, according to the same source, more than 200 other containers would still be waiting in the port of Sousse, coming from Italy. The Tunisian company at the origin of this import had concluded an agreement with an Italian company for the import of 120,000 tonnes of waste per year, at a cost of 48 euros per tonne. The total amount of the contract is around 18 million dinars per year.
Routes	Italy-Tunisia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	The Tunisian company at the origin of this import had concluded an agreement with an Italian company for the import of 120,000 tonnes of waste per year, at a cost of 48 euros per tonne.
Summary	Tunisian customs seized 70 containers from Italy containing 120 tonnes of waste, notably hospital waste. Following the outcry caused by the media coverage of this illegal import, the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment announced the opening of an investigation which should lead to the return of this waste to its source.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/tunisia-the-state-will-send-back-more-than-120-tonnes-of-hazardous-waste-to-italy/>