



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 Easter 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.

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

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.

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](#)



1. 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

2. 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**.

3. 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.

4. 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 5. 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

	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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Routes	<p>From: Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan</p> <p>To: Thailand, most important entry Port: Laem Chabang Port in Chon Buri province (90% of the waste)</p>
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	N.A.
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	<p>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.</p>
For more information, please visit:	<p>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</p>