



# 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**

The information and content of this report is the sole responsibility of the WasteForce Consortium members and does not necessarily represent the views expressed by the European Commission or its services. The information contained in the Waste Crime Alert is taken from public sources, the author(s) or any other participant in the WasteForce consortium make no warranty of any kind with regard to this material.



## 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:

1. Introduction
2. Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
3. Summary of News cases published, see also the overview in Annex II
4. Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III
5. Summary of Media, see also the overview in Annex IV

## 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.

## 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](#).**



### 1. 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)
	Slovenia>Italy>China (5)
	Netherlands > Asia & Africa (12)
	United Kingdom > Malaysia> United Kingdom (16)

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

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

## 2. 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.

## 3. 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.

## 4. 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.

## 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.

## 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](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** SDG Watch Europe

**Date** 2019

**Summary** 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.

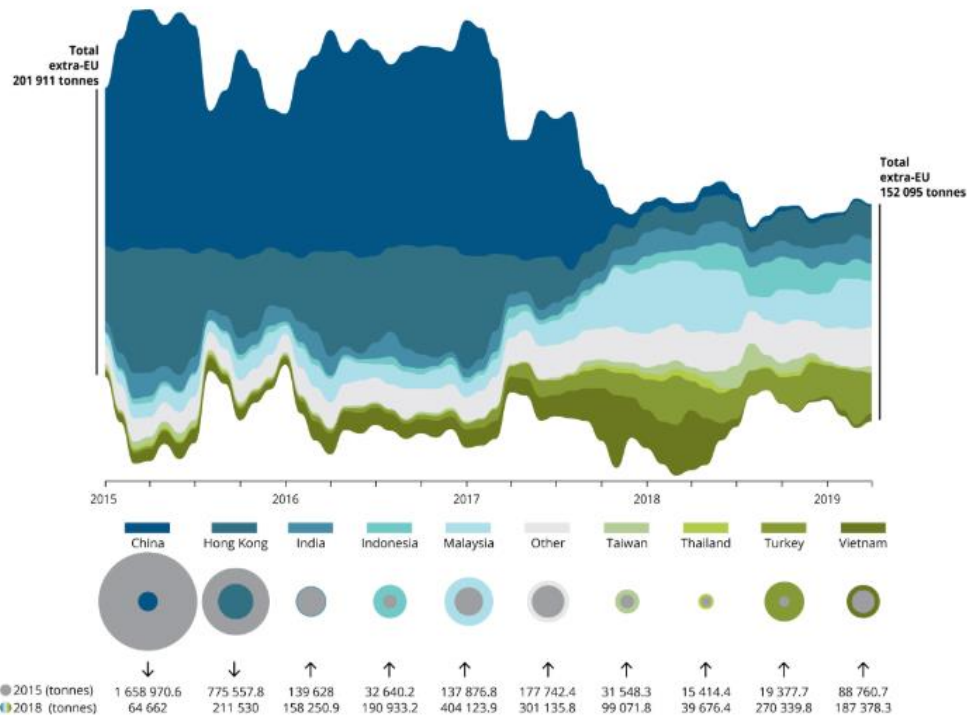
**Link** [https://mk0eeborgicuyptuf7e.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Who-is-paying-the-bill-2019\\_web.pdf](https://mk0eeborgicuyptuf7e.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Who-is-paying-the-bill-2019_web.pdf)

**Title** **The plastic waste trade in the circular economy**

**Organisation** European Environment Agency

**Date** 28 October 2019

**Summary** 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/MMGE).



Extra-EU-28 plastic waste trade by receiving country

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>U.S. Recycling Industry Is Struggling To Figure Out A Future Without China</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	NPR
<b>Date</b>	20-8-2019
<b>Summary</b>	Discussion about solutions for plastic recycling in the United States.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/npr/750864036/u-s-recycling-industry-is-struggling-to-figure-out-a-future-without-china">https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/npr/750864036/u-s-recycling-industry-is-struggling-to-figure-out-a-future-without-china</a>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Nigeria losing billions of dollars in illegal e-waste exports'</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	The Guardian
<b>Date</b>	28-Oct-2019
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://guardian.ng/property/nigeria-losing-billions-of-dollars-in-illegal-e-waste-exports/">https://guardian.ng/property/nigeria-losing-billions-of-dollars-in-illegal-e-waste-exports/</a>
<b>Title</b>	<b>China plans to end illegal hazardous chemical dumping by 2025</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	Reuters
<b>Date</b>	21-Oct-2019
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-environment-chemicals/china-plans-to-end-illegal-hazardous-chemical-dumping-by-2025-idUSKBN1X00E4">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-environment-chemicals/china-plans-to-end-illegal-hazardous-chemical-dumping-by-2025-idUSKBN1X00E4</a>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Report on fate of re-exports of seized illegal imports of waste from the USA to Indonesia</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	Nexus3, an Indonesian NGO & Basel Action Network (BAN)
<b>Date</b>	28 October 2019
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="http://wiki.ban.org/images/7/7f/Report_USContainer_Re-exports_Indonesia.pdf">http://wiki.ban.org/images/7/7f/Report_USContainer_Re-exports_Indonesia.pdf</a> <a href="https://news.mongabay.com/2019/11/indonesia-waste-plastic-export-import-illegal/">https://news.mongabay.com/2019/11/indonesia-waste-plastic-export-import-illegal/</a>



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](http://wiki.ban.org/images/7/7f/Report_USContainer_Re-exports_Indonesia.pdf)

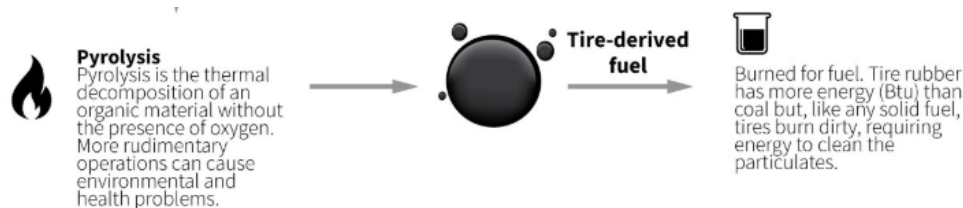
**Title** Trading tires: How the West fuels a waste crisis in Asia

**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-O'Neill/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)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Indonesia to ship hazardous or improperly sorted waste back to Belgium, Europe</b>
<b>Date</b>	19-9-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	Hazardous waste
<b>Quantity/Value</b>	547 containers
<b>Routes</b>	From Indonesia back to Belgium, Germany and France, as well as from Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal trafficking
<b>Enforcement Action</b>	Take back action, 331 containers are already sent back
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	NA
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>For more information, please visit:</b>	<a href="https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/72565/police-arrest-man-with-knife-near-koekelberg-school-interrogated-no-threat/">https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/72565/police-arrest-man-with-knife-near-koekelberg-school-interrogated-no-threat/</a>

#### Case 2. Philippines

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

<b>Routes</b>	Export to the Philippines
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal import
<b>Enforcement</b>	9 persons were arrested and face charges
<b>Action</b>	
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	Captain and crew of a ship (9 persons) arrested
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>For more information, please visit:</b>	<a href="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">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</a>

## Europe

### Case 3. Germany (Nigeria)

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

### Case 4. Greece (China)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Police seized vans filled with illegal waste</b>
<b>Date</b>	12-9-2019

<b>Type of waste</b>	Refrigerants HFC, R407C and R404A
<b>Quantity/Value</b>	23,000 tonnes (1,939 illegal disposable cylinders of HFC refrigerant)
<b>Routes</b>	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.
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal import
<b>Enforcement Action</b>	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.
<b>Criminal organisation Summary</b>	NA
<b>For more information, please visit:</b>	<a href="https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/23-tonnes-of-illegal-hfc-seized-in-greece/">https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/23-tonnes-of-illegal-hfc-seized-in-greece/</a>

### Case 5. Italy (China)

<b>Title</b>	<b>From trash to treasure: the growing illegal waste trafficking market</b>
<b>Date</b>	18-9-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	Plastic waste and textile waste
<b>Quantity/Value</b>	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
<b>Routes</b>	Plastic from Italy to China through Slovenia, Textile from the Italian ports of Genoa, Livorno and Trieste to Africa
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal trafficking
<b>Enforcement Action</b>	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.
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	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/** Illegal trafficking

**Modus Operandi**

**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/](https://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/10/07/news/rifiuti_smaltimento_illecito_arresti_lombardia_pavia-237877111/)

### Case 8. Italy (China)

**Title** 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)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Illegal shipment of waste</b>
<b>Date</b>	17-7-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	tires (B3140, papers (B3020), TV's (AI180)
<b>Quantity/ Value</b>	One container
<b>Routes</b>	Netherlands-Ghana
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Professional shipper transports containers on a regular basis
<b>Enforcement</b>	Conviction and fine of €10,000
<b>Action</b>	
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	Professional shipper
<b>Summary</b>	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)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Raids at companies for suspicion of illegal shipbreaking</b>
<b>Date</b>	12-6-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	Ships
<b>Quantity/Value</b>	Several ships
<b>Routes</b>	The Netherlands to Turkey
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal export
<b>Enforcement</b>	Raids by the police, start of investigation.
<b>Action</b>	
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	One company and three persons
<b>Summary</b>	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/invalen-in-flevoland-wegens-illegale-scheepssloop-turkije/?gdpr=accept>

### Case 12. The Netherlands

<b>Title</b>	<b>Raids in Venlo for illegal waste exports</b>
<b>Date</b>	21-8-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	Different types, including plastic waste
<b>Quantity/Value</b>	12 million kg of waste
<b>Routes</b>	From the Netherlands to Asia and Africa
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal export
<b>Enforcement Action</b>	Raid, seizure proceeds of crime (money, expensive watches)
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	NA
<b>Summary</b>	The suspect has no permit for the export of waste, he laundered the profits.

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

### Case 13. United Kingdom

<b>Title</b>	<b>Illegally stockpiled RDF leads to £510,000 fine</b>
<b>Date</b>	29-1-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)
<b>Quantity/Value</b>	Thousands of tons/450 bales
<b>Routes</b>	NA
<b>Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi</b>	Illegal storing
<b>Enforcement Action</b>	The company was fined £510,000 and ordered to pay costs of £30,000.
<b>Criminal organisation</b>	A company
<b>Summary</b>	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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Cracking down on north London waste crime</b>
<b>Date</b>	3-10-2019
<b>Type of waste</b>	Multiple
<b>Quantity/ Value</b>	4 vehicles
<b>Routes</b>	From London to the south east of the United Kingdom
<b>Type of crimes/</b>	Illegal trafficking



**Modus Operandi**

**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](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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Trash worth millions of Euros</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	EUROPOL
<b>Date</b>	18-9-2019
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/trash-worth-millions-of-euros">https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/trash-worth-millions-of-euros</a>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Operation Silver Axe Striked for the fourth time seizing over 550 tonnes of illegal pesticides</b>
<b>Date</b>	18-10-2019
<b>Organisation</b>	EUROPOL
<b>Summary</b>	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](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>