



WasteForce Crime Alert #5

December- February 2020

Date: 28 February 2020

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 5

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.

Contents

- Introduction 3
- Summary of new publications and legislative and governance updates. (Annex I) 3
- Analysis of news cases (Annex II)..... 4
 - 1. Types of waste and routes 5
 - 2. Quantities and values 6
 - 3. Modus operandi 7
 - 4. Criminal organisations 8
- Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex III 8
- Summary of media, see also the overview in Annex IV 8
- Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates 8
 - Legislation and Governance 8
 - Articles 9
- Annex II: Cases reported in the news 10
 - Europe – Africa 10
 - Europe – Asia 10
 - Exports to Asia and within Asia 12
 - Within Europe 14
 - Asia – Europe 18
- Annex III: IGO Enforcement Actions 19
- Annex IV: Videos and documentaries 19

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:

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

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.

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

1. 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
Ozone Depleting Substances	Case 6 globally > Malaysia
	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
Shipbreaking Metal Scrap	Case 5 Norway > India
	Case 15 Italy

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

2. 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).

3. 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 Gdanse, 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>

4. 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.

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

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 Action	42 arrests, investigation ongoing
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	Unknown
Summary	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.
For more information, please visit:	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. 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	unknown
Summary	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 Summary	Waste materials were “unlawfully imported” by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. in July and October 2018. 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 Action	unknown
Criminal organisation Summary	unknown
For more information, please visit:	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. 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 Action	unknown
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 Company involved

Summary 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