



WasteForce Crime Alert #8

September - November 2020

Date: 30 November 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 8

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
- Summary of IGO Enforcement action (Annex II) 5
- Summary of media (Annex III) 6
- Analysis of news cases (Annex IV) 6
 - 1. Types of waste and routes 7
 - 2. Quantities and values 8
 - 3. Modus operandi 8
 - 4. Criminal organisations 9
- Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates 10
 - Legislation and Governance 10
 - Articles 11
- Annex II: IGO Enforcement Actions 15
- Annex III: Videos and documentaries 16
- Annex IV: Cases reported in the news 17

Introduction

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

This Waste Crime Alert #8 summarises information that was published between September and November 2020. The Waste Crime Alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases. The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Summary of Publications and Legislative updates, see also the overview in Annex I
3. Summary of IGO Enforcement action, see also the overview in Annex II
4. Summary of Media, see also the overview in Annex III
5. Summary of News cases published, 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 articles and reports about waste crime and legislation. A summary and references to each publication can also be found in Annex I.

Legislation and governance

Waste Management Review reported China will ban all imports of solid waste from 1 January 2021. According to a notice issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory will also be banned.

The *European Court of Auditors* published review No 04/2020, which examines the EU's response to the growing problem of plastic waste with a focus on plastic packaging waste. One of the areas of focus of the review is waste trafficking. It reports the Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law is currently under review. Figure 1 gives a theoretical example of how illegal international plastic packaging waste trafficking can take place.

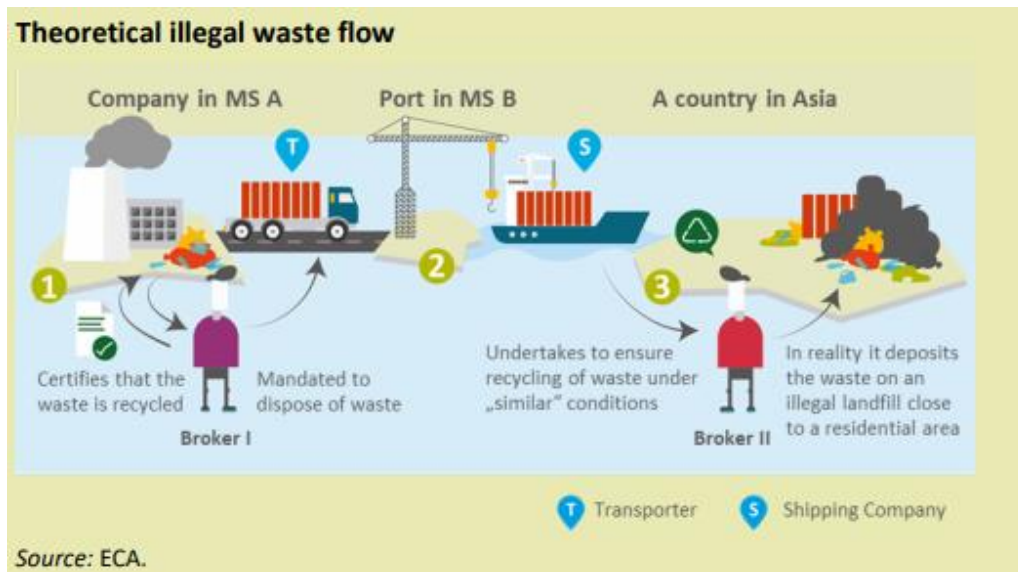


Figure 1: Theoretical traffic of plastic packaging waste (European Court of Auditors, 2020:p44) https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/RW20_04/RW_Plastic_waste_EN.pdf

The *European Court of Law* published a reference for a preliminary ruling on the term wastewater – sewage sludge. The court ruled that sewage sludge generated during the joint treatment of industrial and residential or municipal wastewater in a sewage treatment plant, which is incinerated in a waste incineration plant for the purposes of energy recovery by generating steam, must be regarded as not being waste if the conditions in Article 6(1) of Directive 2008/98 are already met before its incineration.

Articles and publications

Plastic waste

In Annex II, 8 articles and publications about plastic waste are listed. In the Netherlands, the newspaper/non-profit media organisation *NRC* and *Lighthouse reports* examined what happened with plastic waste. A study showed that non-recyclable plastic waste from the Netherlands is illegally exported to Turkey, where it was found on garbage dumps and in nature. The export of plastic waste to Turkey has highly increased since the ban on the import of waste in China. It was also discovered that the plastic waste that is dumped or burned abroad, is counted in Dutch statistics as recycled waste. The industry only measures the plastic that has been sorted for recycling, not how much plastic is made into a new product. An overview of the articles resulting from the study can be found in the Lighthouse reports plastic waste newsroom (see Annex I).

In Spain, an article by the Spanish Information Journal *Verde Y Azul* describes how the licit and illicit trafficking of plastic waste from Europe, and in particular from Spain, has changed its main routes to South-East Asia after the Chinese ban issued in 2018. It also describes the issue of fires emerging in Spain, where the capacity to legally dispose plastic waste is currently not sufficient.

Science Advances published an article about the United States' contribution of plastic waste to land and ocean and *UNEP* published an interactive story about plastic pollution and why it's time for a change.

Statista published an overview of statistics on plastic waste in Europe. Data is collected on different topics such as the global plastic material flows from 1950 to 2017, the plastic production and demand, the plastic waste generation, the plastic recycling and treatment and the plastic waste trade. *The World Counts* also published an overview of plastic waste facts.

E-waste

A report of *EFFACE* examined the case of illegal shipments of e-waste from the EU to China and the effectiveness of EU legislation to counter these shipments. Although the import of e-waste into China has been officially banned since 2000, it is estimated that around 8 million tonnes of e-waste are imported illegally into China every year. Despite empirical data suffering from high uncertainties, the scale of the e-waste trade, its environmental and health impacts, and its links to crime are difficult to contest.

Shipbreaking

The Icelandic program *Kveikur* published an investigation on the illegal export of containerships to the Indian beach of Alang for shipbreaking. The case is under investigation, see also Videos and Documentaries.

Fire extinguisher foam

The research journalist platform *The Monitor* published a study showing that at least 210,000 tonnes of old fire-extinguisher foam is waiting for a safe and definitive end in Europe. It was also found that the Netherlands exports foam concentrates containing PFAS.

COVID-19

EUROPOL published a study on how COVID-related crime infected Europe. It describes the trafficking and disposal of medical waste as one of the crime threats.

Summary of IGO Enforcement action ([Annex II](#))

Operation DEMETER VI, coordinated by the World Customs Organisation, tackled illegal transboundary shipments of waste and ozone depleting substances. The enforcement effort resulted in a total of 131 seizures, with almost 99,000 tonnes of waste and approximately 42 tonnes of ozone depleting substances. Almost 92% of the seized waste consisted of metal waste and about 7% of plastic waste. Most of the seizures of waste were reported by Belgium, Canada, China, Poland, and Denmark, while most of the seizures of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol were performed in Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark and Poland.



Figure 2: Operation DEMETER VI thwarts transboundary shipments of illegal waste and ozone depleting substances. WCO (2020). <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2020/october/operation-demeter-vi-thwarts-transboundary-shipments-of-illegal-waste-and-ozone-depleting-substances.aspx>

Summary of media ([Annex III](#))

In Annex III three videos are listed: a documentary about ships that are exported illegally from Iceland for shipbreaking in India; an audio clip about plastic waste that is illegally exported from the Netherlands to Turkey; and an awareness video clip about the risks related to the current level of plastics use and production, in terms of illicit trafficking, disposal and pollution.

Analysis of news cases ([Annex IV](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between September 2020 and November 2020. In total, 10 cases were collected, of which an overview can also be found in Annex IV.

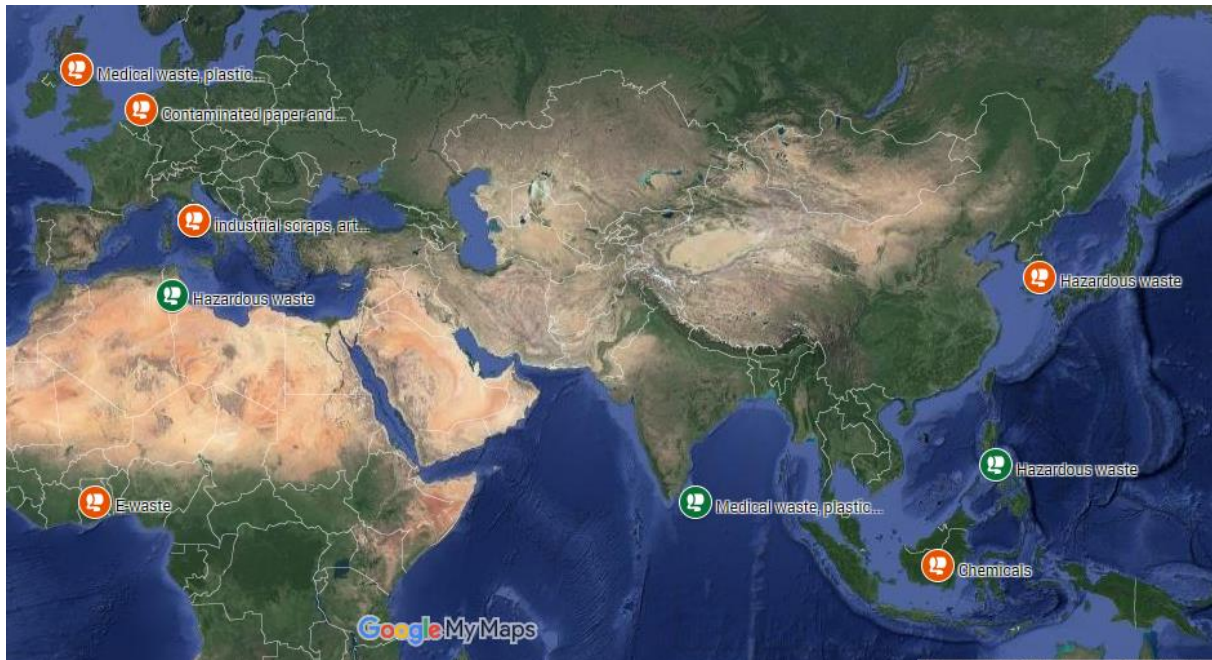




Figure 2: Global map with the listed news cases, the colours are linked to the origin or destination country

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

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

1. Types of waste and routes

Type of waste reported	Routes and case numbers
E-waste	Ghana (case 2)
	Italy (case 7)
	Italy (case 9)
Hazardous waste	South Korea - Philippines (case 6)
	Italy - Tunisia (case 10)
Plastic waste	United Kingdom - Sri Lanka (case 1)
	Netherlands - countries in Europe and Africa (case 5)
Medical waste	United Kingdom - Sri Lanka (case 1)
	Italy - Tunisia (case 10)
Mixed waste (household, industry, paper)	United Kingdom (case 3)
	Italy (case 7)
Metal waste	Italy (case 8)
	Italy (case 9)
ELVs	Italy (case 9)
Chemicals	Indonesia (case 4)

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

2. Quantities and values

Quantities

In 5 cases the quantities of waste illegally shipped and/or the number of containers that shipped the waste were reported:

- In case 1, 21 containers, containing 260 tonnes of hazardous waste (clinical and plastic waste) were shipped from the United Kingdom to Sri Lanka.
- In case 5, there was contamination of non-paper substances in 22 containers in Rotterdam, and 7 containers were found in Antwerp, Belgium containing a mix of recyclable plastic and dangerous substances destined for Asia.
- In case 6, in total 7,408 metric tons of hazardous waste in 364 containers was illegally exported from South Korea to the Philippines. The last batch of 43 containers weighted 1036 tonnes.
- In case 7, 24,000 tons of industrial scraps, artisanal scraps and e-waste was illegally trafficked. Operation of Italian Carabinieri NOE also resulted in the seizure of 7 companies involved in the waste treatment, 9 warehouses and trucks for a total value of about 6 million euro.
- In case 10, 120 tonnes of hazardous waste (including hospital waste) in 70 containers were illegally exported and repatriated.

In total, in the articles of this WCA, 31.788 tonnes of waste were reported to be illegally traded.

Values

Two operations resulted in the seizure of proceeds of crime. In case 8, operation Dirty Iron, resulted in the seizure of materials with a total value of around 1 million euro. In case 9, Operation “Efesto 2” resulted in the seizure of 10 million euro of proceeds of crime. The estimated value of the illicit waste trafficking was 2 million euro.

3. Modus operandi

In three cases there were false declarations of waste exports. In case 1, there was illegal export of hazardous waste including hospital waste, while the shipment was declared as used mattresses, carpets, and rugs. In case 5, the waste was declared as clean recyclable waste, such as paper, cardboard, and plastics, but the waste was contaminated or mixed waste. In case 6, there was illegal export of hazardous waste, wrongly declared as plastic synthetic flakes. In case 10, there was illegal export of waste including hospital waste. It was not reported how the shipments were declared.

Three cases involved treatment facilities that falsely declared treatment of the waste. In case 7, there was illegally trafficking of waste to legal treatment plants, where it was illegally dumped. In case 8, the waste was transferred to a storage plant, where, according to documents, it was cleaned and regularised, while the criminal organisation also illicitly dumped the waste. The reporting also contained false indications on the origin, transportation, and the quantities. In case 9, there was also organised activity of waste trafficking and recycling, and

false declaration of correct treatment. The organisation also weighted, burnt and hidden illegal metal waste under legal waste, before selling it to third buyers.

Illegal burning and dumping

In case 2, there was illegal open burning of e-waste by scrap dealers in Ghana. In cases 3 and 4 there was illegal dumping of waste.

4. Criminal organisations

In two cases (5 and 6) a company was responsible for the illegal shipments of waste. In case 2, eight scrap dealers were involved in the burning of e-waste. In three cases (7, 8 and 9) a criminal network/criminal organisation was involved. In case 7, the criminal network involved 7 companies and 9 warehouses, in case 8 it was created by the management of a company and in case 9, the network involved 3 companies operating in the waste sector. In case 1,3 and 4 was not reported who was behind the waste crime.

Annex I: Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title	China to ban all solid waste imports from Jan 2021
Organisation	Reported by Waste Management Review
Type of waste	All solid waste
Date	1-12-2020
Summary	China will ban all imports of solid waste from 1 January 2021, authorities have said. According to a notice issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory will also be banned. The total ban is the culmination of policies introduced in 2017 to phase out the import of solid waste. In late 2017 China banned the import of 24 types of solid waste, including unsorted paper, textiles and vanadium slag.
Links	https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/china-to-ban-all-solid-waste-imports-from-jan-2021/
Title	Review No 04/2020: EU action to tackle the issue of plastic waste
Organisation	European Court of Auditors
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Date	6-10-2020
Summary	This review examines the EU's response to the growing problem of plastic waste with a focus on plastic packaging waste. The EU's 2018 plastics strategy proposes measures aiming to improve recyclability, collection, sorting, recycling, and recycled content of plastic products. The revised Packaging and Packaging Waste directive set new plastic packaging recycling targets for 2025 (50 %) and 2030 (55 %). New stricter reporting rules will likely lead the EU's reported average plastic packaging recycling rate to drop. Even for plastic packaging, the most developed arm of the plastics strategy, concerted action by stakeholders at EU and Member State level will be required to bridge the considerable gap between the current recycling rate and where we need to be in only 5 to 10 years' time. One of the areas of focus of the review is waste trafficking. It reports the Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law is currently under review.
Links	https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=55223 https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/RW20_04/RW_Plastic_waste_EN.pdf
Title	Reference for a preliminary ruling – Environment – Waste – Directive 2008/98/EC – Article 2(2)(a), point 1 of Article 3 and Article 6(1) – Wastewater – Sewage sludge – Scope – Concept of ‘waste’ – Cessation of waste status – Recovery or recycling operation
Organisation	European Union law (EUR-Lex)
Type of waste	Sewage sludge (municipal / industrial wastewater)
Date	14-10-2020
Summary	The court made a statement regarding criteria for end-of-life waste:

The court ruled: Article 2(2)(a), point 1 of Article 3 and Article 6(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives must be interpreted as meaning that sewage sludge generated during the joint treatment of industrial and residential or municipal waste water in a sewage treatment plant, which is incinerated in a waste incineration plant for the purposes of energy recovery by generating steam, must be regarded as not being waste if the conditions in Article 6(1) of Directive 2008/98 are already met before its incineration. It is for the referring court to determine whether that is the case in the main proceedings.

Link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62019CJ0629>

Articles

Plastic

Title **Plastic Waste: how a Dutch bag of liquorice could have ended up on the Turkish roadside (Dutch Hoe een Nederlands dropzakje kon eindigen in een Turkse berm)**

Organisation NRC

Date 16-10-2020

Type of waste Plastic waste

Summary A study of NRC and Lighthouse reports showed that Dutch plastic waste is illegally being dumped in Turkey. It was found there on garbage dumps, wasteland and in nature. Different Dutch brands of food and drink products were found in the region of Adana, close to the boarder with Syria. It is illegal to export non-recyclable plastic waste to countries outside of the EU. The export of plastic waste to Turkey has highly increased since the ban on the import of waste in China. Turkey tries to control the waste flows and is becoming stricter to limit the import of waste.

Links <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2020/10/16/plastic-afval-hoe-een-nederlands-dropzakje-kon-eindigen-in-een-turkse-berm-a4016112>
<https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2020/10/19/wat-doet-ons-plastic-afval-in-turkije-a4016459>

Title **Playing hide and seek with recycled plastic (Dutch)**

Organisation NRC

Date 18-10-2020

Type of waste Plastic waste

Summary Dutch plastic waste that is burned or dumped abroad is counted in statistics as recycled waste. The industry only measures what has been sorted, not what is really made into a new product. In sorted bales of plastic is still a lot of dirt and moisture, therefore the weight of the waste is often overestimated. It is also uncertain if the recycle is really recycled, because there is a low demand for this product.

Link <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2020/10/18/verstoppertje-spelen-met-gerecycled-plastic-a4016329>

Title **Plastic waste newsroom (Dutch)**

Organisation Lighthouse reports

Date NA

Type of waste Plastic waste

Summary	An overview of articles published by Lighthouse reports about plastic waste.
Link	https://www.lighthousereports.nl/ourprojects/2020/10/16/plastic-waste-newsroom
Title	Our planet is drowning in plastic pollution
Organisation	UNEP
Date	NA
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become addicted to single-use or disposable plastic — with severe environmental consequences. Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In total, half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once — and then thrown away. Plastic waste is now so ubiquitous in the natural environment that scientists have even suggested it could serve as a geological indicator of the Anthropocene era. So how did we get here?
Link	https://www.unenvironment.org/interactive/beat-plastic-pollution/
Title	Plastic waste in Europe - Statistics & Facts
Organisation	Statista
Date	10-11-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	Since plastics first became popular more than half a century ago, annual production has increased significantly. In 1950, global plastic production amounted to 1.5 million metric tons. In comparison, 359 million metric tons was produced in 2018, of which 61.8 million metric tons were produced in Europe. Much of the plastic demand in Europe is for the packaging sector.
Link	https://www.statista.com/topics/5141/plastic-waste-in-europe/
Title	What happens to the Plastic you throw away?
Organisation	The World Counts
Date	NA
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	Plastic is one of the most widely used and cheapest materials in the world today. You can find it anywhere. If it's not made from plastic, it's wrapped in plastic. We use around 5 trillion plastic bags a year worldwide! The US alone throws away enough plastic bottles in a week to encircle the world 5 times. Only 1 to 3% of all plastics used are recycled. After we use them, we throw them away.
Link	https://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/plastic-waste-facts
Title	New routes of Spanish dirty plastic towards Asian countries (Nuevas rutas del plástico 'sucio' español hacia países asiáticos)
Organisation	Verde y Azul (Spanish information journal)
Date	19-10-2020
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Summary	The article describes how the licit and illicit trafficking of plastic waste from Europe, and in particular from Spain, has changed its main routes to South-East Asia after the Chinese ban issued in 2018. It also describes the issue of fires emerged in Spain, where the capacity to legally dispose plastic waste is currently not enough.

Link <https://verdeyazul-diarioinformacion-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/verdeyazul.diarioinformacion.com/nuevas-rutas-del-plastico-sucio-espanol-hacia-paises-asiaticos.html/amp>

Title **The United States' contribution of plastic waste to land and ocean.**
Organisation Science Advances
Date 30-10-2020
Type of waste Plastic waste
Summary Plastic waste affects environmental quality and ecosystem health. In 2010, an estimated 5 to 13 million metric tons (Mt) of plastic waste entered the ocean from both developing countries with insufficient solid waste infrastructure and high-income countries with very high waste generation. We demonstrate that, in 2016, the United States generated the largest amount of plastic waste of any country in the world (42.0 Mt). Between 0.14 and 0.41 Mt of this waste was illegally dumped in the United States, and 0.15 to 0.99 Mt was inadequately managed in countries that imported materials collected in the United States for recycling. Accounting for these contributions, the amount of plastic waste generated in the United States estimated to enter the coastal environment in 2016 was up to five times larger than that estimated for 2010, rendering the United States' contribution among the highest in the world.

Link <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/44/eabd0288>

Fire extinguisher foam

Title **Fire extinguisher foam: a chemical time bomb that the Netherlands is passing on to its neighbours**

Organisation De Monitor
Date 8-10-2020
Type of waste Fire Extinguisher Foam
Summary Fire extinguishers are replaced regularly. The problem is that extinguishing foam is full of PFAS: chemical compounds, with great risks to human health and the environment, which are very difficult and have great costs to clean up. In Europe, at least 210,000 tons of old fire-fighting foam is waiting for a safe and definitive end. The organisation "Follow the Money", found out the waste is first processed in the Netherlands, but the remaining foam concentrates containing PFAS are exported abroad. How much is exactly exported is unknown, as its reported as a subcategory of other waste.

Link <https://demonitor.kro-ncrv.nl/artikelen/blusschuim-een-chemische-tijdbom-die-nederland-neerlegt-bij-de-buren>

Waste

Title **Hempstead Town raises fine for illegal dumping to \$10K**
Organisation LiHerald
Date 24-9-2020
Type of waste Waste

Summary The Town of Hempstead Board voted at a Sept. 8 virtual meeting to increase the fine for illegal dumping in the town from \$1,500 to \$10,000 per incident. Town Supervisor Donald Clavin said the board is worried about a potential spike in illegal dumping once the Town of Brookhaven, in Suffolk County, closes its last landfill in 2024.

Link <https://www.liherald.com/stories/hempstead-town-raises-fine-for-illegal-dumping-to-10k,127905?>

E-waste

Title **Illegal shipment of e-waste from the EU: A case study on illegal e-waste export from the EU to China**

Organisation EFFACE

Date

Type of waste E-waste

Summary This report examines the case of illegal shipments of e-waste from the EU to China and the effectiveness of EU legislation to counter these shipments. Although the import of e-waste into China has been officially banned since 2000, it is estimated that around 8 million tonnes of e-waste are imported illegally into China every year. Despite empirical data suffering from high uncertainties, the scale of the e-waste trade, its environmental and health impacts, and its links to crime are difficult to contest.

Link <https://efface.eu/illegal-shipment-e-waste-eu-case-study-illegal-e-waste-export-eu-china>

Shipbreaking

Title **Prosecutor launches investigation after Icelandic journalists shed light on illegal export of toxic ships to India**

Organisation NGO SHIPBREAKING PLATFORM

Date 25-9-2020

Type of waste End-of-Life Ships

Summary Icelandic program Kveikur released yesterday an investigation on the murky sale of two ships owned by Icelandic company Eimskip. In a documentary broadcasted by radio and television Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV), Kveikur uncovers the illegal export of the container ships GODAFOSS and LAXFOSS to the Indian beach of Alang for dirty and dangerous scrapping. The Icelandic authorities have confirmed that the case has been brought to the public prosecutor for further investigation.

Link <https://shipbreakingplatform.org/breach-eu-wsr-godafoss-laxfoss/>

Covid-19

Title **How COVID-19-related crime infected Europe during 2020.**

Organisation EUROPOL

Date 11-11-2020

Type of waste Medical waste

Summary In its report "how COVID-19-related crime infected Europe, EUROPOL also describes the trafficking and disposal of medical waste as one of the crime threats: The COVID-19 crisis has also represented a sanitary emergency with a significant impact on waste management, posing risk both to the environment and public health. Increase in medical waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic has also created opportunities for OCGs to traffic and illegally dispose of medical waste.

Link https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/how_covid-19-related_crime_infected_europe_during_2020.pdf

Annex II: IGO Enforcement Actions

Title	Operation DEMETER VI thwarts transboundary shipments of illegal waste and ozone depleting substances
Organisation and partners	Various partners rallied in support of Operation DEMETER VI, with 73 Customs administrations joining forces. The WCO Secretariat, the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) for Asia/Pacific and Western Europe, as well as China Customs all played leading roles in the Operation, establishing the Operational Coordination Unit in the Asia/Pacific RILO based in Seoul, Korea. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) also supported the Operation by assisting WCO Members with enhanced risk information. In addition, the other nine WCO RILOs, the WCO-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Container Control Programme, INTERPOL, Europol, the EU Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention as well as the staff of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction ensured a collective approach in support of Operation DEMETER VI.
Date	29-10-2020
Summary	<p>Using risk indicators and focusing on pre-identified routings and hotspots, Customs officers managed to control suspicious shipments, stop unlicensed trade and seize illegal waste and substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. Despite the measures in place to counter the Covid-19 pandemic imposing some restrictions on Customs operational capacity, this concerted enforcement effort resulted in a total of 131 seizures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Almost 99,000 tonnes of waste and an additional 78,000 pieces of waste materials (not weighed), as well as -Approximately 42 tonnes of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol. <p>Five countries reported most of the seizures of waste products: Belgium, Canada, China, Poland, and Denmark, while most of the seizures of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol were performed in Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, and Poland.</p> <p>About 92% of the seized waste commodities consisted of metal waste (90,872 tonnes), and about 7% consisted of various types of plastic waste (6,859 tonnes). Other commodities seized included machines and electric/electronic waste, waste from production and manufacturing, other industrial waste, contaminated used clothing, municipal waste, used tyres, waste solar panels, paper waste, textile waste, and mixed wood waste.</p> <p>Concerning the seized substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, nearly 75% were HFCs (over 31 tonnes), which are mostly used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems, in the manufacture of foams and insulating materials, as well as fire extinguishing agents. Although HFCs are non-ozone depleting gases, they are very potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and climate change.</p>

Under the Kigali Amendment, Montreal Protocol Parties are required to gradually phase down HFC production and use. The first reductions commenced in 2019 for most developed countries, which will be followed by a halt of HFC production and consumption levels between 2024 and 2028.

The efforts by the WCO and its partners to address environmental risks will continue to intensify, with more enforcement initiatives planned for the future.

Operation DEMETER VI

73 Customs Administrations
joining forces

131 seizures, including:

- Almost **99,000 tonnes** of waste and an additional **78,000 pieces** of waste materials (not weighed),
- Approximately **42 tonnes** of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

- **92% of metal waste (90,872 tonnes),**
- **7% of various types of plastic waste (6,859 tonnes),**
- machines and electric/electronic waste,
- waste from production and manufacturing,
- other industrial waste,
- contaminated used clothing,
- etc.



Source: WCO (2020). Operation DEMETER VI thwarts transboundary shipments of illegal waste and ozone depleting substances.

Links

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2020/october/operation-demeter-vi-thwarts-transboundary-shipments-of-illegal-waste-and-ozone-depleting-substances.aspx>

<https://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/global-customs-operation-bags-31-tonnes-of-illegal-hfcs/>

Annex III: Videos and documentaries

Title	What is our plastic waste doing in Turkey?
Type	Audio Clip (Dutch)
Date	19-10-2020
Organisation	NRC Vandaag
Summary	The Netherlands is producing more waste than they can process. Much More. Therefore, they are more and more exporting our waste to Turkey to get it recycled there. This seems like a practical solution, but is it really being recycled? What happens to the waste in Turkey.
Link	https://art19.com/shows/vandaag/episodes/9b8e4d99-84f9-4ab2-ba81-55ef4177721f
Title	Where Eimskip's ships go to die
Type	Documentary
Date	24-9-2020
Organisation	Kveikur

Summary	Kveikur returns for a new series this evening with a hard-hitting exposé of Iceland's recent role in the ongoing environmental and human rights tragedies unfolding in southeast Asian ship breaking yards, in blatant breach of European law.
Link	https://www.ruv.is/kveikur/where-ships-go-to-die/
Title	Contamination for plastics
Type	Awareness Video clip
Date	10-20
Organisation	UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Summary	Awareness video explaining the risks related to the current level of plastics use, and consequent production of plastic waste, in terms of illicit trafficking, disposal and pollution.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkE3XvaK444

Annex IV: Cases reported in the news

Case 1. United Kingdom – Sri Lanka

Title	Sri Lanka returns 21 containers of illegal waste to Britain
Date	28-9-2020
Type of waste	Medical waste, plastic waste
Quantity/Value	21 containers, 260 tonnes of waste, plastic waste, clinical waste rated as extremely hazardous
Routes	United Kingdom – Sri Lanka – United Kingdom
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export (the containers were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and rugs, but also contained hospital waste).
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	Unreported
Summary	Sri Lanka has shipped back to Britain container-loads of waste that the Colombo government said were brought into the island in violation of international laws governing the shipping of hazardous material. The 21 containers – holding up to 260 tonnes of rubbish – first arrived by ship in the capital Colombo's main port between September 2017 and March 2018, customs told AFP, adding that they departed Sri Lanka on Saturday. They were meant to carry used mattresses, carpets and rugs, but also contained hospital waste, officials said.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.wionews.com/videos/sri-lanka-returns-21-containers-of-illegal-waste-to-britain-330856 https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/27/sri-lanka-returns-waste-to-britain https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/27/sri-lanka-returns-containers-of-illegal-waste-to-britain https://ipen.org/news/sri-lanka-court-orders-illegal-waste-back-uk

Case 2. Ghana

Title	EPA, Police arrest 8 scrap dealers for burning e-waste materials
Date	28-8-2020
Type of waste	E-waste
Quantity/Value	Unreported
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal open burning of e-waste
Enforcement Action	Arrests
Criminal organisation	Involvement of eight scrap dealers
Summary	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the Accra Regional Police Command last Friday arrested eight scrap dealers for allegedly engaging in open burning of electronic waste (e-waste) at Agbobloshie in Accra. The arrest forms part of the agency's resolve to end open burning in the country. This also follows the passing of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act (Act 917) by Parliament in 2016 and the launching of the Integrated E-Waste Management Programme for Ghana in 2018.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/epa-police-arrest-8-scrap-dealers-for-burning-e-waste-materials.html#:~:text=The%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency%20(EPA,open%20burning%20in%20the%20country.

Case 3. United Kingdom

Title	Truck involved in major flytipping across Burnley seized by council and crushed
Date	21-10-2020
Type of waste	Waste
Quantity/Value	Waste
Routes	Local in the United Kingdom
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal dumping of waste with trucks
Enforcement Action	Truck that was used for illegal dumping has been seized and crushed.
Criminal organisation	Unreported
Summary	A vehicle that had been involved in at least two incidents of illegal waste dumping has been seized by the council and crushed. A video posted on social media by Burnley Borough Council shows the truck, which was seen fly tipping across the borough on numerous occasions, being raised into the air by an industrial crane before being dropped from a height and crushed.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/18809420.truck-involved-major-flytipping-across-burnley-seized-council-crushed/

Case 4. Indonesia

Title	Lorry to get tested for illegal waste
Date	8-10-2020
Type of waste	Liquid and semi-solid organic compounds (chemicals)
Quantity/Value	Unknown
Routes	NA
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal dumping of waste
Enforcement Action	Forensic tests will be carried out on an 18-wheeler seized in Kota Baru to establish if it carried waste in an illegal dumping incident in an industrial area in Nilai.
Criminal organisation	Unreported
Summary	Forensic tests will be carried out on an 18-wheeler seized in Kota Baru to establish if it carried waste in an illegal dumping incident in an industrial area in Nilai, which led to the closure of two water treatment plants in Selangor.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/10/08/lorry-to-get-tested-for-illegal-waste

Case 5. Netherlands - Countries in Europe and Asia

Title	Company pays to the State within the framework of European waste regulations
Date	7-10-2020
Type of waste	Contaminated paper and plastic
Quantity/Value	During inspections in Rotterdam from September 2012 to January 2013, authorities found that of 22 of the 37 containers checked, that there was contamination with non-paper substances. In the port of Antwerp, Belgium customs found 7 containers from the company, which a mix of recyclable plastic and other dangerous substances, with as destination Asia.
Routes	From Ireland to the Netherlands, from the Netherlands to Belgium destined for Asia.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The company trades recyclable waste such as paper, cardboard and plastics from Europe to countries such as Asia. This should concern "clean" waste streams that are not contaminated with other waste materials. Based on the investigation by the police, the Public Prosecution Service concluded that Peute received containers with contaminated or mixed waste from Ireland in the year 2012 and January 2013 and that containers with contaminated waste were sent by Peute to Asia. The Public Prosecution Service has come to the conclusion that this happened without prior permission or in violation of a prohibition, and that as a result, it was in violation of the European rules for the shipment of waste (EVOA).
Enforcement Action	Infringements of WSR settled for €135.000
Criminal organisation	Company
Summary	The company trades recyclable waste such as paper, cardboard and plastics from Europe to countries such as Asia. This should concern "clean" waste streams that are not contaminated with other waste materials. Based on the investigation by the police, the Public Prosecution Service concluded that Peute received containers

with contaminated or mixed waste from Ireland in the year 2012 and January 2013 and that containers with contaminated waste were sent by Peute to Asia. The Public Prosecution Service has concluded that this happened without prior permission or in violation of a prohibition, and that as a result, it was in violation of the European rules for the shipment of waste (EVOA).

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.om.nl/documenten/publicaties/fp-hoge-transacties/feitenrelaas/map/feitenrelaas-peute>

Case 6. South Korea – Philippines

Title	Customs completes reshipment of hazardous waste to South Korea
Date	9-10-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	In total 7,408 metric tons, 364 containers. The last batch of 43 containers weighted 1036 tonnes.
Routes	From South Korea to the Phillipines and reshipment back to South Korea.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The South Korean waste shipments were wrongly declared as “plastic synthetic flakes” and weighing about 6,500 tons arrived in Northern Mindanao in July and October 2018.
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	Imported by a company in the Philippines.
Summary	The Bureau of Customs (BoC) has completed the reshipment of 7,408 metric tons of hazardous waste from South Korea. Cagayan de Oro District Collector John Simon confirmed that the last batch of 43 containers of illegal waste shipment weighing 1,036 metric tons were already shipped back to its port of origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea, more than two years after it arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/08/news/latest-stories/customs-completes-reshipment-of-hazardous-waste-to-south-korea/777994/ https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/04/re-shipment-of-remaining-trash-imports-from-s-korea-lauded/

Case 7. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste: maxi operation of NOE in Milan, also in the Expo area
Date	21-10-2020
Type of waste	Industrial waste, e-waste
Quantity/Value	24,000 tons of industrial scraps, artisanal scraps, e-waste
Routes	Inside Italian territory
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Transfer of waste illicitly stocked to apparently legal treatment plants, where instead thousands of tons of industrial scraps and e-waste were illicitly dumped
Enforcement Action	Operation of Italian Carabinieri NOE brought to 15 precautionary measures and seizure of 7 companies involved in the waste treatment, 9 warehouses and trucks for a total value of about 6 million euro.

Criminal organisation Summary	Criminal network involved
For more information, please visit:	The investigation started after a similar one originating from the explosion of fires in different warehouses in the North of Italy (Pavia). The investigation revealed the illicit trafficking of waste in the North of Italy, but also from the South to the North of the country, where metal scraps, industrial scraps and e-waste were illicitly dumped in treatment plants operating illegally. https://fivedabliu.it/2020/10/21/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-maxi-operazione-del-noe-di-milano-anche-nellarea-expo/

Case 8. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste in San Tammaro: 8 precautionary measures carried out by the Carabinieri in Caserta
Date	16-9-2020
Type of waste	ferrous scraps
Quantity/Value	Seizure of materials for a total value of about 1 million EUR
Routes	Inside Italian territory
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Once waste was transferred to the storage plant, they were 'cleaned' and 'regularized' from a documentary formal perspective. The reports to identify the types of waste were produced ad hoc, as they presented false indications on the real origin and the transportation of ferrous scraps, as well as about the quantities. The entire management of the company 'SIDER RECUPERI' was involved: they created a criminal organisation aimed at illicitly dumping ferrous scraps, gaining about 175,000 EUR.
Enforcement Action	Operation Dirty Iron, dealing with illicit dumping of special waste. 8 precautionary measures for the following criminal activities: organized activity of illicit waste trafficking; criminal association; illicit management of waste.
Criminal organisation Summary	Criminal organisation created by the management of the company 'Sider Recuperi', aimed at illicitly dumping ferrous scraps. A complex investigation named Dirty Iron and dealing with the illicit dumping of special waste, in particular metal (ferrous) scraps, brought to reveal a criminal network created by an apparently licit treatment plant which was instead operating illegally, by illicitly cleaning and regularizing special waste and creating ad hoc reports giving false indications on their actual origin and quantity.
For more information, please visit:	https://casertaweb.com/notizie/traffico-illecito-rifiuti-san-tammaro-otto-misure-cautelari-eseguite-dai-carabinieri-del-n-caserta/

Case 9. Italy

Title	Operation 'Efesto 2' on illicit trafficking of waste
Date	14-10-2020
Type of waste	Copper cables, lead batteries, waste oil, WEEE, ELVs, ferrous scraps
Quantity/Value	The value of the illicit trafficking was 2 million EUR / yearly
Routes	Inside Italian territory
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illicit organized activity of waste trafficking and recycling of cables and copper artefacts. The owners of the identified company made the society available as the main centre of waste trafficking and copper. There, the metal was recovered,

	weighed, burnt, and hidden under loads apparently legal, before being sold to third buyers.
Enforcement Action	Operation Efesto 2: seizure for 10 million euro + 61 precautionary measures.
Criminal organisation	Organized criminal activity and network.
Summary	3 companies operating in the waste sector and trade of ferrous scraps were instead committing organized criminal activity of waste trafficking, receipt of stolen goods, illicit recycling of cables and other crop artefacts. They produced the illicit documentation to simulate the traceability of waste and crops, this one even stolen from telecommunication infrastructures. Transportation vehicles were also illegally demolished, and the engines sold in other regions of the country, with false declaration of the correct treatment of waste oil and other polluting substances.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.linchiestaquotidiano.it/news/2020/10/14/operazione-efesto-2-sul-traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-un-s/35059

Case 10. Italy

Title	Tunisia: the state will send back more than 120 tonnes of hazardous waste to Italy
Date	5-11-2020
Type of waste	Hazardous waste, notably hospital waste
Quantity/ Value	70 containers containing 120 tonnes of waste, according to the same source, more than 200 other containers would still be waiting in the port of Sousse, coming from Italy. The Tunisian company at the origin of this import had concluded an agreement with an Italian company for the import of 120,000 tonnes of waste per year, at a cost of 48 euros per tonne. The total amount of the contract is around 18 million dinars per year.
Routes	Italy-Tunisia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import
Enforcement Action	Repatriation
Criminal organisation	The Tunisian company at the origin of this import had concluded an agreement with an Italian company for the import of 120,000 tonnes of waste per year, at a cost of 48 euros per tonne.
Summary	Tunisian customs seized 70 containers from Italy containing 120 tonnes of waste, notably hospital waste. Following the outcry caused by the media coverage of this illegal import, the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment announced the opening of an investigation which should lead to the return of this waste to its source.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.afrik21.africa/en/tunisia-the-state-will-send-back-more-than-120-tonnes-of-hazardous-waste-to-italy/