

# Operation Demeter VIII



## HOW CAN MY ADMINISTRATION JOIN A RILO?

A Customs administration wishing to join a RILO should notify the Vice-Chairperson of the relevant WCO region, who in turn should seek the agreement of the Directors General within this region. As a last step, if applicable, an adhesion agreement is signed by the administration wishing to join.

## WHO WORKS AT THE RILO?

The staffing of each RILO varies greatly from one region to another. A majority of staff members in each RILO come from the hosting administration, although the RILOs should operate fully independently of the host administration in terms of functional instructions. The remaining staff members are seconded officers from other Member administrations in the region.

## HOW CAN MY ADMINISTRATION SECOND AN OFFICER TO THE RILO?

Enlarging the RILO offices and enriching them with staff members from various Member administrations is an important goal for the growth of the RILO Network. Administrations wishing to second an officer to the RILO are requested to contact the Head of the RILO in their region in order to discuss the practical arrangements for secondment.

## HOW ARE RILO NCPs NOMINATED?

The national contact points form an essential component that enables the RILO to act at the regional level. NCPs gather information from existing sources at the national level, cooperate with a gamut of enforcement agencies and services nationally, and form a bridge between the national and regional level. Each Member administration is asked by their RILO to nominate an officer within their structure to act as the main point of contact for regional cooperation through the RILO. Any change in NCP nomination is subject to a formal notification of the appropriate RILO.

## WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GLOBAL RILO MEETING?

The purpose of the GRM is to oversee the development and effective implementation of the Global RILO Network's mission, to discuss and arrive at a common approach to strategic and operational issues, and to promote the exchange of views, experiences, and best practices among the RILOs. The GRM is also a platform for initiating and coordinating activities within the network, and discussing policy and legal issues related to the network.

## WHO CAN ATTEND THE GLOBAL RILO MEETING?

The GRM is a limited-size group composed of Heads, Deputy Heads or representatives of all RILOs. Additional participants may be invited as observers in accordance with the needs of the Meeting, in consultation with the Meeting Chairperson and all RILOs.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please browse through the WCO website for more information:

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/activities-and-programmes/regional-intelligence-and-risk-management-programme/info.aspx>

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# RILO

A unique and united network

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**Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices**



# THE RILO NETWORK

a vital resource to support global Customs intelligence

The exchange of intelligence at national, regional and international levels is a critical mechanism in order to render enforcement actions by Customs authorities more effective and to secure the optimum use of available resources. At the strategic level the WCO has incorporated the aim of intelligence exchange among all stakeholders, recognising the contribution this objective has in furthering the protection of society, public health and safety. Therefore, in 1987, the first Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) was established with the intent of creating a Global Intelligence Network.

Today the RILO network has grown to 11 offices providing effective coverage throughout all six WCO regions. RILO offices are located in the following territories: Eastern and Central Europe, Western Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), North Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Middle East, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean and South America.

## REGIONAL OUTREACH

Each RILO office covers a number of Member states within their respective region and is staffed by personnel from those affiliated Member states as well as the host administration where the regional office is housed. This principle of secondment of international staff within the RILO network is essential for the acceptance and operational continuity of the RILO within each region. These regional offices operate in the interest of their affiliated Members, represented by National Contact Points (NCPs), and as such, there is no hierarchy as each participating country is equally represented in relation to the common interests of all affiliated Members. In this regard, the independent nature of the RILO network enables accountability to the Head of RILO with mutual representation through the WCO Secretariat ensuring appropriate consultation to the WCO Enforcement Committee and Council to which the RILO network reports.

The unique nature of the RILO network offers an added layer of information exchange to the already existing intelligence exchange taking place between the Secretariat and Member administrations at the "strategic" or Director-General level. In similar fashion as the WCO Secretariat, the RILO network responds to the needs of its Members, albeit at the regional or tactical level. At this level, the RILO network also offers support to its Members by arranging the nominations of NCPs as well as organising annual regional meetings with all RILO NCPs within their jurisdiction.

## OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

At the operational level, the RILO network supports its Member Customs administrations by responding to requests for intelligence or operational support, designing and implementing target-orientated intelligence analysis projects and regional intelligence-led operations, facilitating mutual administrative assistance, and promoting and maintaining regional co-operation with other law enforcement agencies and organizations in accordance with any rules or provisions being established by the WCO Enforcement Committee or the Council.

Today, under this structure, the RILO network remains an exclusive and unique Customs intelligence exchange entity, enabling Globally Networked Customs capability, connecting Customs to Customs throughout most of the WCO Member base and likewise represents a key component to the WCO Global Information and Intelligence Strategy.

Among the tools provided by the WCO to the RILO network, as well as the greater WCO Member base, are the WCO Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) and the WCO Customs Enforcement Network Communication (CENcomm) platform. The RILO network uses the CEN database to analyse seizures and develop regional intelligence products, and is responsible for verifying the data quality of CEN submissions from its regional partners or NCPs.

## MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH

- Intelligence exchange is split into three levels, operating interactively and in a complementary manner: at the national level, Member administrations' NCPs gather information on seizures made from existing sources at the national level, electronically input data into the CEN or transmit the data to RILOs by fax or post, analyse the information collected at the national level to ascertain new trends, produce alerts and transmit them to the RILOs for regional circulation, and co-operate nationally with a full gamut of enforcement agencies or services;
- At the regional level, the RILOs study and evaluate international seizures, verify the accuracy of the CEN data supplied by the NCPs, prepare and circulate alerts and intelligence profiles, issue periodicals or ad hoc analysis bulletins, devise, organise and support regional intelligence-based operations, facilitate mutual assistance and co-operation with other law enforcement services, and provide technical or other assistance to NCPs;

- At the international level, the WCO Secretariat is responsible for the central management of the CEN, operating and maintaining the system as a global information and intelligence tool for the RILO network, periodically conducting global strategic and tactical analyses based on information available in the CEN, circulating a summary of its analyses in its annual reports, offering training and technical assistance to the RILOs and their Members, and sharing strategic information with other international organisations engaged in combating organised crime.

The RILO network is a premier user of the CENcomm platform. As a multi-regional intelligence and information exchange network, the RILOs are actively involved in several ongoing projects and operations organised by the Secretariat, WCO Members, or individual RILO teams. By taking an active role throughout hundreds of operations over the years, the RILO network remains a steadfast WCO strategic intelligence capability in the global Customs goal of identifying, disrupting and dismantling trans-national criminal organizations.



A global customs intelligence network  
processing information for a more effective intelligence



# RILO AP Membership



***34 members***

## ***Hosting RILO AP***

- Hong Kong, China  
(1987~1998)
- Tokyo, Japan (**1999~2003**)
- Beijing, China (2004~2011)
- Seoul, Korea (2012~Present)

### **Afghanistan**

Australia  
Bangladesh  
Brunei  
Bhutan  
Cambodia  
China  
Fiji  
Hong Kong,  
China  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran  
Japan  
Korea  
Laos  
Macao, China  
Malaysia

Maldives

Mongolia

Myanmar

Nepal

**New Zealand**

Pakistan

Papua New

Guinea

Philippines

Samoa

Singapore

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Timor-Leste

Tonga

Vanuatu

Vietnam

Solomon Islands



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## NEWSROOM

2022

2021

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015

2014

## Operation Demeter yields tons of illegal shipments of hazardous waste



08 July 2009

Brussels, 8 July 2009

### Operation Demeter yields tons of illegal shipments of hazardous waste

A joint global Customs initiative across Europe, the Asia/Pacific region and Africa netted more than 30000 tons and 1,500 pieces of illegal hazardous waste in 57 seizures, ranging from household waste and scrap metal to discarded electronic goods and used vehicle parts.

Between March and May 2009, Customs administrations from 64 countries launched Operation Demeter targeting the illicit cross-border shipment of hazardous and other waste en route from Europe to countries in the Asia/Pacific region and Africa. This fifty-day operation which was coordinated by the WCO Secretariat was aimed at increasing information exchange among Customs administrations; a vital element in tackling



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## NEWSROOM

2022

2021

December

November

October

September

August

July

# Operation DEMETER VII clamps down on illegal transboundary shipments of waste and ozone depleting substances



26 November 2021

Conducted from 1 to 31 October 2021, Operation DEMETER VII demonstrated Customs' commitment to helping to protect the health of both people and the planet, by enforcing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which regulate cross-border movements of environmentally sensitive commodities. Strategically placed at borders, Customs is the primary line of defence against illicit cross-border trafficking, and is mandated to monitor and control commodities.

Operation Demeter VII tackled the illicit trafficking of waste, ozone depleting substances (ODS) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are very potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and climate change. These commodities are regulated under, respectively, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), and the Montreal



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## NEWSROOM

2023

2022

December

November

October

September

August

July

June

# Transboundary trafficking in waste and ozone depleting substances tackled through Operation DEMETER VIII



13 December 2022

Operation DEMETER VIII, which took place from 1 to 31 October 2022, gave Customs administrations and their partners an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to playing their part in the fight against climate change.

The DEMETER Operations, the first edition of which dates back to 2009, are aimed at intercepting illegal shipments of hazardous waste, especially plastic waste, as well as ozone depleting substances (ODS) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that contribute to global warming and environmental degradation.

These commodities are regulated, respectively, by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the "Basel Convention") and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol").

## Timeline

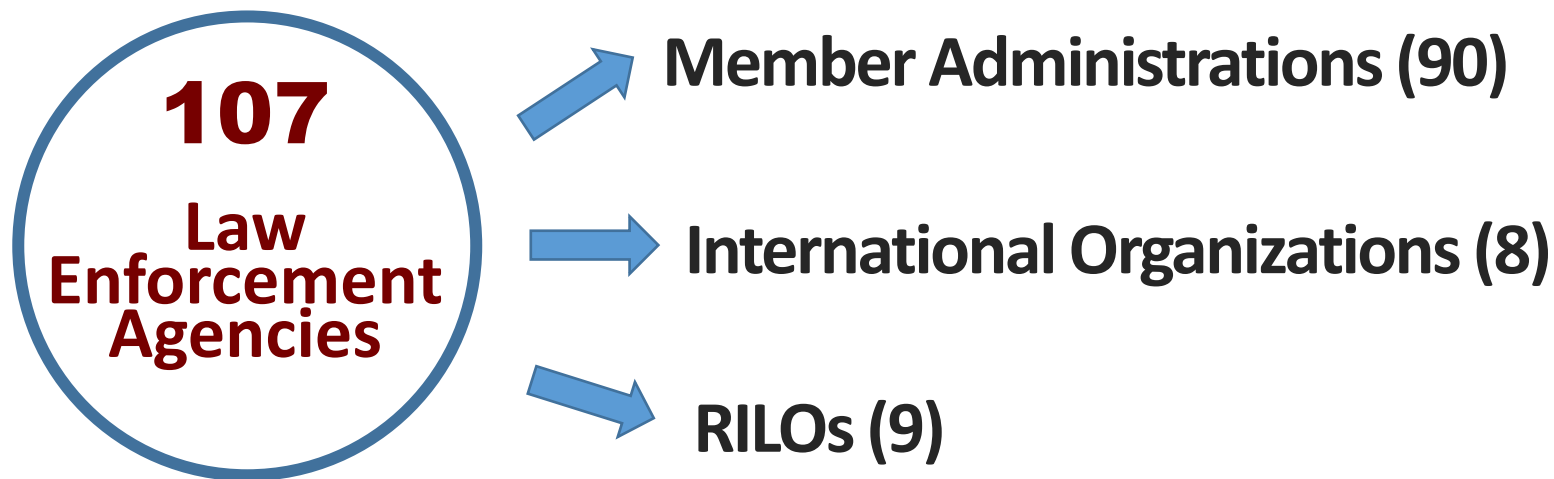
	Operational phase
Duration	1 Oct to 31 Oct 2022

## Objective

Monitor and control cross-border movements of hazardous and other waste and substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol.



# Participants



## Cases Reported

139 cases reported: 126 of waste by 25 Members; 13 of ODS & HFCs by 5 Members. including 3,647,182 kg of waste and 8,662 pieces (not weighed), and 24,997 kg of ODS & HFCs.

Category	Case Number	Weight(kg)	Pieces
Chemical	5	78,979	432
E waste	19	225,726	3,960
Glass	1	22,060	
Metal	22	825,452	4
Mixture	15	582,618	527
Paper	5	703,820	
Plastic	20	746,078	6
Rubber	8	81,340	196
Rubble	3	74,450	
Textile	6	77,826	1
Used clothing	4	61,800	925
Vehicle and machine	13	57,232	2,611
Waste wood	5	109,801	
ODS & HFC	13	24,997	
TOTAL	139	3,672,178	8,662

# Direction

Direction	Number of cases
Export	59
Import	64
Internal	3
Transit	13
Total	139

303 tonnes of waste mixture including tyres, appliances and engines in a single case.



## Remarkable Cases

265 tonnes of plastic waste

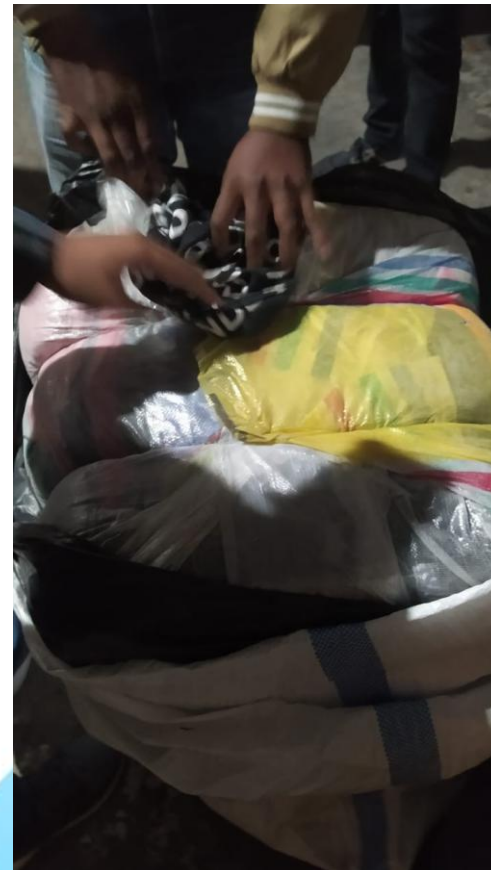




129 tonnes of Scraps of electronic parts of machinery in a single case.



60 tonnes of used clothing in a single case.





53 tonnes and 51 tonnes of waste metal in separate cases.



31 tonnes of waste mineral oil in a single case.



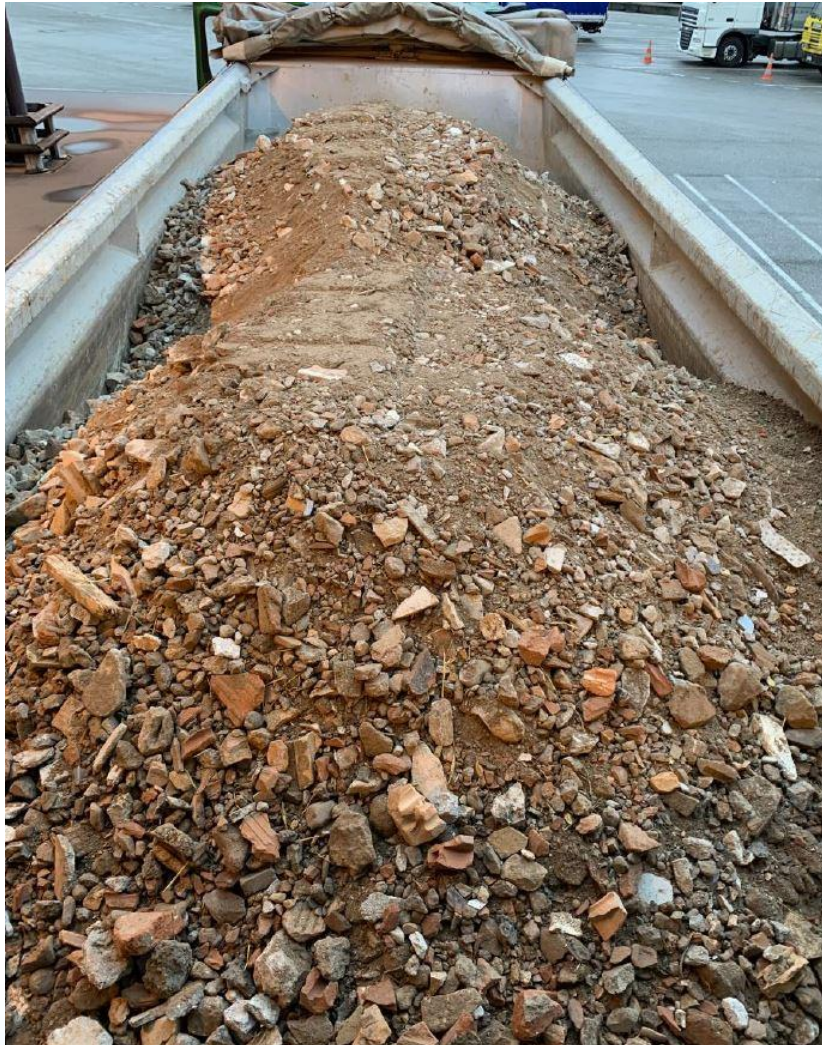


31 tonnes of E waste in a single case.





Three cases of Mixed demolition rubble, over 20 tonnes respectively.



# THANK YOU

Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific