UNWASTE: TACKLING WASTE TRAFFICKING TO SUPPORT A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The challenges posed by the illicit flow of waste from Europe to Southeast Asia

Register here

Thursday 27 January
16:00-17:30 (UTC+7)
via Zoom

In cooperation with

Implemented by

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Speakers

- Giovanni Broussard - Programme Coordinator, UNODC
- Luigi Garruto, Investigator, European Commission, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
- Georgina Lloyd – United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- Ioana Cotutiu, UNODC, Unwaste Project Coordinator

Moderator: Matthew Baird, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law

Agenda

Introductions

Illegal waste trade in practice - investigation and enforcement examples from European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

Unwaste project
- UNODC
- UNEP
Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy
Context

2018 China waste imports ban
Shift of exports in SEA countries

EU - one of the top exporters of waste globally

15% to 30% of waste shipments intra-EU and extra EU might be illegal, generating EUR 9.5 billion / year in the EU
Q1: What is the main challenge related to waste trade that you are experiencing in your work?
### Participants' answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clear laws and guidance.</th>
<th>Lack of information</th>
<th>Repatriation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of coordination between agencies across countries</td>
<td>Repatriation</td>
<td>waste/non-waste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and enforcement</td>
<td>Community participation</td>
<td>Lack of awareness of such crimes at the international/diplomatic level and lack of prioritization</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of waste collector are very limited. The return from selling waste is not incentive.</td>
<td>Lack information and traceability for waste trade (illegal)</td>
<td>Improper wastes disposal, inefficient wastes collection and lack of disposal facilities are among the dominant concerns</td>
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<td>Traceability</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>Chemical and hazardous waste from Science laboratories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic waste</td>
<td>Food Waste</td>
<td>Lack of real data and traceability</td>
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<td>Unregulated waste disposal for maritime industry.</td>
<td>Electronic waste</td>
<td>Illegal dumping sites, contamination</td>
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<td>Plastic Users</td>
<td>Legislation and law enforcement must be improved according to reality of complicated movement of waste/waste trafficking</td>
<td>Lack of information about waste trade</td>
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</table>
Challenges
(non-comprehensive)

- Lack of traceability of imported waste
- Inconsistent data
- Inconsistent use of HS codes
- Economic impacts of covid 19 on informal and legal recycling sector
- Insufficient capacity for enforcement
- Lack of adequate sanctions for illegal waste trade activities

ETC
Unwaste objectives

1. To better understand waste flows between Europe and Southeast Asia, with an additional focus on the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on healthcare and hazardous waste movements.

2. To promote cooperation through national dialogues to combat illicit movements of waste from the EU towards Southeast Asia.

3. To facilitate intra and inter-regional dialogues at the policy level to promote partnership between the EU and Southeast Asian nations, in support of the circular economy approach.
Project timeline

Year 1: Aug 2021 - Jul 2022
Year 2: Aug 2022 - Jul 2023
Year 3: Aug 2023 - Jul 2024

IMPLEMENTATION: NOV 2021 - JULY 2024
Unwaste Project outputs
Quarterly bulletins

Concise quarterly bulletins on waste trafficking trends and developments, including those pertaining to the impact of COVID-19, as well as on the latest on policy developments, are disseminated to Southeast Asian governments and EU stakeholders.

Research core team

Monitoring: media & policy developments

Publication of quarterly bulletins
Comprehensive study on waste trade

A first comprehensive study detailing waste flows from Europe to Southeast Asia, as well as policy and legislation gaps, is launched and disseminated.
Dialogues

Bilateral dialogues in the four countries lead to country strategies on improvements at the legislative, enforcement, management and compliance levels, to effectively respond to waste trafficking and to support the transition to a circular economy.

National Steering Committees

Administrative and criminal remedies (UNEP)

Regular meetings, workshops, etc.
Shared understanding of waste trade issues

Shared understanding on the legal/illegal imports/exports of waste among relevant stakeholders

Regional meetings

Waste trafficking threats
Circular economy best practices

Mechanisms to prevent waste trafficking (UNODC/UNEP)
Partnership & exchange

Development of partnerships and exchanges (e.g. real-time communication channels, shared databases, joint task forces, etc.) between countries of origin, transit and destination to counter waste trafficking

Study tours

Bilateral interactions for purposes related to waste trade and circular economies

Tools for information exchange to detect breaches of compliance

Regional conference, with ASEAN and EU stakeholders: approach to illicit waste flows, supporting circular economy efforts,
Project Governance

- Research core team *(UNODC coordination)*
  - Multi-disciplinary team of experts *(e.g. UNEP, EU, Governments, independent experts)*

- Project Steering Committee *(Chair by EU, UNODC Secretariat)*
  - UNODC Project Coordination Team *(based in the UNODC ROSEAP, Bangkok)*
  - UNEP

- Malaysia Advisory Committee
- Thailand Advisory Committee
- Indonesia Advisory Committee
- Viet Nam Advisory Committee
Gap analysis of legal frameworks in 10 ASEAN countries

Comparative analysis of administrative and criminal remedies (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand)

Paper on the obstacles that waste trafficking pose to the development of circular economies and best practices from Europe and Asia
Building Upon recent UNEP projects and legal expertise

UNEP developed Resources in **English, Cantonese, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese.**

- Best Practices in repatriation of illegal waste shipments from Asia to Europe.
- Assessment of information exchange mechanisms used in cases of illegal shipments of waste.
- Underused information exchange mechanisms in case of dealing with illegal waste shipments.

https://www.unep.org/resources/assessment/wasteforce
Q2: How would you like to be involved in the future?

a. receive regular information
b. share your experience
c. fill in surveys / participate in interviews or focus groups
d. other

Q2: Answers

- Receive regular information: 18
- Share your experience: 9
- Fill in surveys / participate in interviews or focus groups: 12
- Other: 2

Scan the QR code for more information.
Waste Enforcement Asia community

Stay connected and network with others addressing waste trade.
Informal Network: +190 members Asia/EU national authorities (Customs, Prosecution, Environmental authorities, etc)

https://waste-enforcement-community-asia.mobilize.io/
@UNODC_SEAP
@ICotutiu

WEB PLATFORM
Waste Enforcement Asia community

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Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy