



First edition

# Newsletter IMPEL-TFS Seaport Project



European Union Net work for  
the Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

October 2003

## 1. Introduction

Currently a European project "enforcement of waste shipment regulations in large seaports" is being carried out. This first newsletter gives you some general information about IMPEL-TFS (Transfrontier Shipment of Waste), port shopping, the aim of the project, the international waste shipment regulations, the outcomes of a first conference on this subject and the joined enforcement actions that will be carried out during the next year by all authorities involved, and some first results of inspections held at the end of September. Two following newsletters will present the results of the joined enforcement actions.

## 2. IMPEL-TFS Network

IMPEL-TFS is a network of representatives from enforcement authorities of EU Member States and other European countries dealing with matters on Transfrontier Shipments of Waste. The IMPEL-TFS network was set up in 1992 in order to harmonise the enforcement of EC Regulation 259/93 (replacing EC Directive 84/631) on TFS with regard to the supervision and control of waste shipments into, out of and through the European Union.

## 3. Port shopping

One of the main purposes of TFS is to prevent shipments of environmentally harmful waste to countries that do not have the provisions to cope with these wastes. The companies that are involved in these shipments have proven to be very sensitive to enforcement activities. If control and enforcement in one port increases, companies quickly move their activities to an adjacent port in another European country. We call this port shopping. So, if real influence of enforcement on the destinations of these waste streams is desired, enforcement authorities in the European seaports have to cooperate in aligning their enforcement activities.

## 4. Project aim

The main aim of the project is to improve the enforcement of TFS Regulations in the participating seaports. Information exchange and transfrontier cooperation between involved authorities will be focused on.

Experiences and practical knowledge about the execution and enforcement of TFS Regulations will be expanded and shared with all countries involved.

The project will also accomplish:

- A network of contacts for enforcement activities;
- Cooperation between national and international authorities;
- Agreements about exchanging enforcement information.

The project will be finished in April 2004 with a final conference in one of the participating countries.

The project is financed by the Dutch Inspectorate and is carried out under the umbrella of the IMPEL-TFS network.

## 5. Relevant Regulations

A number of international regulations are in force, aiming at preventing shipments of environmentally harmful waste to countries that do not have the provisions to cope with these wastes. The most important regulations are the Basel Convention ([www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)) and EU Regulation 259/93 (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/shipments>)



Figure 1 Start conference

## 6. First conference Rotterdam

On 4, 5 and 6 June 2003 a start conference on the TFS Seaport Project was held in Rotterdam. Representatives of the enforcement authorities of the ports of Belgium, Germany, Latvia, United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Poland made a start in building an enforcement network on TFS Regulations at large international seaports.

For those who would like to receive a copy of the report of the conference, please contact the project manager of this project:

Ms Nancy Isarin  
VROM Inspectorate South-West  
P.O. box 29 036  
3001 GA Rotterdam The Netherlands  
Telephone: +31 10 2244417  
Fax: +31 10 2244485  
E-mail: [nancy.isarin@minvrom.nl](mailto:nancy.isarin@minvrom.nl)

## 7. Joined enforcement actions

At the conference all participating countries agreed on the following joined actions:

- Every country carries out at least 3 inspections;
- All countries focus the inspections on the export of wastes to non-EOCD countries, Latvia and Poland;
- Special attention will be paid to declared green listed wastes;
- Inspections will be held during the period September 2003 till March 2004.

## 8. Inspections 24 - 26 September 2003

On 24, 25 and 26 September the first inspections in Hamburg, Felixstowe, Antwerp and Rotterdam were carried out for the TFS Seaport Project. Some results of these inspections:

- Detection of an illegal export of motor scrap from Rotterdam, via the port of Antwerp to Israel;
- Detection of an illegal export of fridges containing CFC's from Rotterdam to Cameroon;
- In Hamburg containers with second hand goods were inspected;
- In Felixstowe the inspections concentrated on export of waste paper and waste plastics to India, China, Malaysia and Indonesia;
- Storage of cable scrap with bitumen in Antwerp, declared as aluminium scrap, for export to the Far East.



Figure 2 Cable scrap

## 9. Things worth knowing

- During the conference the final manual "Enforcement of Waste Shipments Regulation" was agreed upon. For those who would like to receive a copy of the manual, please send an e-mail to [nancy.isarin@minvrom.nl](mailto:nancy.isarin@minvrom.nl)
- On 23, 24 and 25 June 2003 the annual IMPEL/TFS conference was held in Prague. The project outline of this TFS Seaport Project has been presented at this conference;
- During the IMPEL-conference on 6, 7 and 8 October 2003 in Maastricht (The Netherlands) the TFS Seaport Project has been promoted;
- More common information about the TFS Seaport Project can be found at: [www2.minvrom.nl/docs/internationaal/Info\\_IMPEL\\_TFS\\_project\\_eng.pdf](http://www2.minvrom.nl/docs/internationaal/Info_IMPEL_TFS_project_eng.pdf)

## Colophon

Final editor: Nancy Isarin  
VROM Inspectorate  
P.O. box 29 036  
3001 GA Rotterdam  
The Netherlands  
Editing: ARCADIS  
Date: October 2003

Country	Contact person	Tel nr.	Email	Contact
Belgium	Mr Marc de Strooper	+32 15 284353	<a href="mailto:Marc.de.strooper@ovam.be">Marc.de.strooper@ovam.be</a>	
Germany	Mr Klaus Willke	+49 40 428452129	<a href="mailto:Klaus.willke@bug.hamburg.de">Klaus.willke@bug.hamburg.de</a>	
Latvia	Mr Ojars Gerke	+37 12 469664	<a href="mailto:Ojars.Gerke@jvp.gov.lv">Ojars.Gerke@jvp.gov.lv</a>	
Netherlands	Mr Huib van Westen	+31 10 2244306	<a href="mailto:Huib.vanwesten@minvrom.nl">Huib.vanwesten@minvrom.nl</a>	
Poland	Mrs Magda Gosk	+48 22 5792729	<a href="mailto:mgosk@pios.gov.pl">mgosk@pios.gov.pl</a>	
United Kingdom	Mr Lyndon Essex	+44 14 73273984	<a href="mailto:Lyndon.essex@environment-agency.gov.uk">Lyndon.essex@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>	