

# IMPEL Waste and TFS Conference 17 to 18 November 2021

**Final Report** 

Date of report: December 2021

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#### Introduction to IMPEL

The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the European Union and EEA countries. The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal Network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of the IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years, IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organisation, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 7th Environment Action Programme and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

Information on the IMPEL Network is also available through its website at: www.impel.eu



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### **Executive Summary**

The 2021 annual IMPEL Waste and TFS Conference took place virtually from 17 to 18 November 2021. 117 environmental practitioners representing 33 IMPEL member countries, European institutions and global organisations including the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, the European Commission DG Environment, the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, the ENVICRIME Network, representatives from the Asia Network and the Ports Environmental Network Africa.

Besides annual reporting from international partner organisations, updates and discussions on IMPEL's activities and projects, panel discussions were facilitated with contributions from international partners organisations and non-EU countries, including from Africa and Asia, who are often at the receiving end of waste. There were presentations of case studies as well as practical examples of first enforcement experiences on the implementation on the recent Basel amendment on plastic and on the electronic exchange of data.

The conference provided good opportunity practitioners in the field of TFS and waste management to get an update of ongoing activities and share experience on real cases and new development in the waste sector. The conference should continue to building and maintaining international cooperation with environmental enforcement practitioners and facilitating sustainable links between involved regions. To maintain a sustainable collaboration on enforcement work a physical meeting is imperatively indicated.

### Disclaimer

This report is the result of a project within the IMPEL network. The content of the report does not necessarily represent the view of national administrations or the European Commission.





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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Many projects and activities of the Waste and TFS Expert Team are based on the European Waste Shipment Regulation (EC) Nº 1013/2006 (hereafter referred to as the WSR). Being a regulation and including a cross-border aspect, it is of high importance to have an active and practical European network of inspectors and regulators that meet on a regular basis to exchange practical experiences. Not only environmental inspectors, but also Customs and Police officers and the Judiciary. Ongoing IMPEL Waste and TFS projects continue to show the need for establishing and maintaining good and practical collaboration between Member States, third countries and relevant international organisations.

The conference, which since 1992 is organized annually by the IMPEL network, relates to the control of Transfrontier Shipments of Waste (TFS) as regulated in the WSR, and focuses on the IMPEL Waste and TFS expert team. The conference aims to facilitate:

- Exchanges of best practices and experiences;
- Promotion of IMPEL work to a broader audience;
- A more uniform approach and interpretation of the WSR;
- Improved collaboration between the involved law enforcement agencies;
- Presentations of the outcomes of other relevant (international) projects and initiatives;
- Collection ideas for future work of the Waste and TFS export team;
- Improving links and joint actions with countries and regions outside the European Union.

The 2021 IMPEL Waste and TFS Annual Conference took place virtually and was held on 17 and 18 November 2021. The conference was attended by 117 participants representing 33 IMPEL member countries, European institutions and global organisations including the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, the European Commission DG Environment, the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, the ENVICRIME Network, representatives from the Asia Network and the Ports Environmental Network Africa. It included updates by partner organisations, presentations of internally funded projects and projects financed by IMPEL partner organisations as well as first experiences on enforcement of the recent Basel amendment on plastic waste and experiences in the area of electronic data exchange.

The agenda, the participants list and the Terms of References are included under Annex I to III of this report. The PowerPoint presentations delivered during the conference are available on Basecamp; IMPEL's web-based project management and communication platform accessible to members.

#### 2. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The conference was opened and facilitated on day one by Allison Townley from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and co-leader of the IMPEL Waste and TFS Expert Team Steering Group, who welcomed participants on behalf of the TFS Steering Committee composed of Helge Ziolkowski (Sweden), Hannele Nikander (Finland), Romano Ruggieri Italy), Kevin Mercieca (Malta), Martin Zemek (Czech Republic), Huib van Westen (Netherlands) and on the second day by Simonne Rufener (Switzerland), coleader of the IMPEL Waste and TFS Expert Team Steering Group.

The opening was followed by updates from several partner organisations and projects:



- On behalf of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, Tatiana Terekhova spoke about the latest developments and ongoing work under the Basel Convention. She highlighted that following the entry into force of the Ban Amendment two years ago, it had already been ratified by 100 contracting parties. New proposals for the Convention included the EU Proposal on Annex IV and the E-Waste joint amendment proposal by Ghana and Switzerland with a new proposed entry under Annex II.
- Farah Bouquelle from the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment spoke about EUFJE's work and emphasised the continuous challenges for judges to become experts within short periods of time on specific topics such as waste and the need for training and exchange with environemental enforcement practitioners.
- Rob de Rijck representing the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment informed of ENPE's activities in promoting a consistent approach to prosecuting environmental crimes across Europe. Unfortunately the pandemic and funding issues had an important impact on the network's recent oerations.
- Miguel Angel from the ENVICRIME Network made a registered video intervention as the EnviCrimeNet General
  Assembly meeting was taking place at the same time. Among others he emphasised the work being done on
  harmonising criminal investigation procedures and the elaboration of guidelines on criminal investigation, wild
  life and waste offences.
- Harry Barnes representing the Ports Environmental Network Africa highlighted the need for international ports cooperation on illegal hazardous waste shipment (HWS) to Africa, the establishment of a network of enforcement authorities and the promotion of enforcement of EU and ECOWAS regulations in ports.
- Yorg Aerts and Enrique Garcia John from the EU Commission DG Environment provided an update on latest developments in EU waste policies and the circular economy action plan. The highlight being the adoption by the EC of the waste shipment regulation proposal that day. Under the revised regulation there are stronger rules to stop the export of EU's waste challenges to third countries and to better facilitate the transition to a circular economy in the EU with a high level of environmental protection. Mr Garcia John reminded that only 12% of the materials used by EU industry currently come from recycling. However, to achieve climate neutrality, the EU needed to reduce its material footprint and increase significantly its circular material use rate
- Romano Ruggeri from the Sardinian Regional Environmental Protection Agency and IMPEL Project
  Leader of the IMPEL "Waste management and circular economy" project informed of the completion
  of the guidance developed for regulators to enabling innovations for the circular economy<sup>1</sup> and the
  proposal to use the End-of-Waste case-by-case database, a tool which would permit practitioners to
  access electronically information on decisions and/or results of verifications.
- Hannah Wooldridge from the England Environment Agency and Hannele Nikander from the Finnish Environment Institute continued by providing practical end-of-waste examples. Ms Wooldridge emphasing on advantages of considering an end of waste assessment and the documentation necessary in England to achieve end-of-waste status for derived materials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Guidance-Making-the-Circular-Economy-Work.pdf</u> (impel.eu)



- Janka Steinert from the German Environment Agency provided an update on the IMPEL WEEE Article 17 Enforcement Group. It is expected that an overview of WEEE European Registers will be finalised in the course of 2022 and available to be shared with members.
- Simonne Rufener from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment updated the audience on the NCP Best Practice meeting that took place virtually in June and gathered representatives from 39 countries. The NCP considered the current project portfolio is covering all important aspects of enforcement practitioners but consider enhanced involvement in ongoing projects.
- Beate Langset from the Norwegian Environment Agency informed on the IMPEL project on the End
  of Life Ships aimed at detecting and reducing illegal recycling/dismantling of ships. A factsheet to
  support clarification on application of the Waste Shipment Regulation and Ship Recycling Regulation
  is under development.
- **Brian Hefferman from the Dublin City Council** gave an update on the IMPEL plastic Waste Shipments Project. In particular he highlighted the work done for the Basel Plastic waste Guidance and showed some pracital examples including photos and FAQs.

On day two, the conference was chaired and facilitated by **Simonne Rufener from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and Co-Leader of the IMPEL Waste and TFS Expert Team**. Following introductory remarks, presentations followed on Waste Imports to Malaysia (Ms **Hidayah Badri**), Cooling devices in Africa, UN environment programme center (**Kofi Agyarko**), WEEE in Africa using the example of Ghana.

Furthermore, Allison Townley provided feedback from the Asian Network Workshop on the first enforcement experience following the recent Basel amendment on plastics.

- Practical experience of Waste Import into Turkey was shared by Pinar Ece Karar from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change.
- Howard McCann from the Environment Agency UK reported on two court cases of shipped houshold waste to China, India and Indonesia

Presentations followed on practical examples on Electronic Data Exchange by Austria, Portugal, Finland and the BRS Secretariat.

- Thomas Grafl from the Federal Ministry of Austria made a life screening session on the EC IMSOC platform for waste shipment notifications. He talked about user experience and future developments
- Carla Valle from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention gave an update on the exploration of an electronic data system under the Basel convention (EDI)
- Ana Teixeira from Portuguese Environment Agency presented the Portuguese TFS electronic system. This contains both an amber and green list module and is in force since 2015, resp. 2013.
- Hannele Nikander from the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, presented the Finnish TFS system that is in operation since January 2021.

At the end of day two, Kristina Rabe from the German Environment Agency and IMPEL Chair and Will Fawcett from the IMPEL Secretariat provided an update on IMPEL activities and the new IMPEL structure in particular the efforts undertaken following the General Assembly decision of 2019 to review the entire IMPEL system. While some work remains outstanding, substantial progress was made by introducing a set



of reforms to strengthen the IMPEL network and increase the efficiency of use of financial and other resources to the benefit of IMPEL members.

Starting from 2022, a project board and an administrative and strategic board will support IMPEL's leadership. Newly also a fall back structure has been introduced to allow candidate nomination by EU Member States in case of insufficient numbers of voluntary candidatures. Also, a new framework partnership agreement is in preparation with the EU Commission.

The next General Assembly meeting will take place on 07 and 08 December 2021 where NCPs will approve work program and projects of upcoming three years and will appoint a new chair and two new vice chairs. A new website is under development to better display IMPEL products and work. Some of its features will be shared during the General Assembly.

At the end of the day, the Conference Chair and representative of the IMPEL Waste and TFS Steering Committee thanked all presenters, participants, the IMPEL Waste and TFS steering committee and the secretariat for their participation, valuable contributions and support.

#### 3. CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The conference provided a good opportunity for a variety of EU and international stakeholders to discuss issues related to WSR enforcement.
- The conference was updated on developments from partner organisations, progress in relation to IMPEL Waste and TFS activities and the new IMPEL structure on partner organisations.
- The conference noted a variety of case studies concerning the illegal shipments of waste, interagency collaboration and guidance and experiences on illegally shipped waste
- The conference should continue to building and maintaining international cooperation with environmental enforcement practitioners and facilitating sustainable links between involved regions.
- To maintain a sustainable collaboration on enforcement work a physical meeting is imperatively indicated.



# **Annexes**



## Annex I. Conference Programme

Wednesday, 17 N	Wednesday, 17 November 2021 – Conference Day 1			
14.00	Conference Opening Allison Townley, co-lead of the IMPEL Waste and TFS Expert Team			
14.10 – 15.20	1. Update by Partner Organisations			
	Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention (Tatiana Terekhova)			
	The European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (Farah Bouquelle)			
	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (Rob de Rijck – no presentation)			
	ENVICRIME Network (Miguel Angel – via video message)			
	African Collaboration (Harry Barnes-Dabban)			
	European Commission DG Environment (Yorg Aerts)			
15.20 – 15.40	Comfort break			
15.40 – 16.20	The progress of the circular economy action plan			
	European Commission DG Environment (Enrique Garcia John)			
	End of waste database (Romano Ruggeri)			
	Plastic End of waste: practical example (Hannah Wooldridge)			
	End of waste: practical example (Hannele Nikander)			
16.20 – 17.05	2. Update on IMPEL Waste & TFS projects and Partnership Projects			
	IMPEL WEEE Article 17 Enforcement Working Group (Janka Steinert)			
	Waste Management & Circular Economy (Romano Ruggeri)			
	NCP Best Practice Meeting (Simonne Rufener)			
	End of Life Ships (Beate Langset)			
	Effects of International Restrictions on Plastic Waste Shipments and Challenges posed by the Basel Plastic Waste Amendment (Brian Heffernan)			
	Big Little TFS project (Jonas Lundin)			
	SWEAP (Katie Olley)			
	PROWhiBIT (Angeliki Rontogianni)			
	Close session			
18.30 – 19.30	Small Beer Evening session – a social event			



Thursday 18 Nove	Thursday 18 November 2021 – Conference Day 2			
8.30 - 8.40	Opening of second session Simonne Rufener Co-Chair of the IMPEL Waste and TFS Expert Team			
8.40 – 9.40	3. International collaboration Waste Imports to Malaysia (Ms Hidayah Badri) Cooling devices Africa, UN environment programme center (Kofi Agyarko) WEEE in Africa using the example of Ghana (Markus Spitzbart)			
9.40 – 10.25	4. First Enforcement Experience on the Basel Amendment on Plastics Feedback from Asian Network Workshop (Allison Townley) Experience from Turkey (Pinar Ece) Experience of IMPEL members – all			
10.25 – 10.40	Q&A			
10.40 – 10.50	Comfort break			
10:50- 11.10	5. UK Case of Household waste (Howard McCann)			
11.10 – 11.20	6. R3/R12 issues (Laura Gillan)			
11.20 – 12.25	7. Electronic Data Exchange: Practical Examples of Systems and APPs  EC IMSOC user experience and future development (Thomas Grafl – no powerpoint presentation)  EDI Basel Convention (Carla Valle) Portuguese model (Ana Teixeira) Finland's system (Hannele Nikander)			
12.25-12.35	Q&A			
12.35 – 12.55	8. IMPEL update (Kristina Rabe and Will Fawcett)			
12.55 – 13.00	Closure Simonne Rufener, co-lead of the IMPEL Waste & TFS Expert Team			



### Annex II. Conference Participants

ID	NAME	LAST NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
1	Thomas	Grafl	Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
2	Walter	Pirstinger	Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
3	Franz	Waldner	Austria	Federal Ministry of Climat Action
4	Catherine	Van Nieuwenhove	Belgium	Brussels Environment
5	Tom	Nuyts	Belgium	Enforcement Division - Government of Flanders
6	Farah	Bouquelle	Belgium	EU Forum of Judges for the Environment
7	Enrique	Garcia John	Belgium	European Commission - DG Environment
8	Jonas	Eylenbosch	Belgium	Leefmilieu Brussel
9	Robert	Rocek	Croatia	State Inspectorate
10	Demetris	Demetriou	Cyprus	Department of Environment
11	Vlasta	Dudkova	Czech Republic	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
12	Jana	Samková	Czech Republic	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
13	Irena	Sedláčková	Czech Republic	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
14	Katrin	Kaare	Estonia	Environmental Board
15	Rene	Rjasalu	Estonia	Environmental Board
16	Yorg	Aerts	EU	European Commission
17	Heli	Lampela	Finland	Customs Finland
18	Emmi	Halonen	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
19	Hannele	Nikander	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
20	Emma	Nurmi	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
21	Pirke	Suoheimo	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
22	Tim	Dahlhaus	Germany	Bezirksregierung Detmold / District Government Detmold
23	Daniel	Hinchliffe	Germany	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
24	Sophie	Dülberg	Germany	District Government Arnsberg, North Rhine-Westphalia
25	Andreas	Jungmann	Germany	District Government Arnsberg, North Rhine-Westphalia
26	Katharina	Aiblinger-Madersbacher	Germany	District Government of Lower Bavaria
27	Jana	Kubíková	Germany	Landesverwaltungsamt Sachsen-Anhalt



ID	NAME	LAST NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
28	Wiebke	Schnee	Germany	SBB Sonderabfallgesellschaft Brandenburg/Berlin mbH
29	Felix	Ursin	Germany	SBB Sonderabfallgesellschaft Brandenburg/Berlin mbH
30	Janka	Steinert	Germany	Umweltbundesamt (German Environment Agency)
31	Markus	Spitzbart	Ghana	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
32	Kofi	Agyarko	Ghana	Energy Commission
33	Harry	Barnes-Dabban	Ghana	Ports Environmental Network-Africa (PENAf)
34	Eleni	Chliopanou	Greece	Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy
35	Angeliki	Rontogianni	Greece	Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy
36	Fotini	Stamati	Greece	IMPEL
37	Andrea	Szabó	Hungary	Government Office of Pest County
38	József	Váczi	Hungary	Government Office of Pest County
39	Hazai	Gàbor	Hungary	
40	Sàndor	Szabòszabos	Hungary	
41	Margret	Bragadottir	Iceland	Environment Agency of Iceland
42	Brian	Heffernan	Ireland	Dublin City Council
43	Caoimhin	Nolan	Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency
44	Philip	Stack	Ireland	EPA
45	Thomas	Wallace	Ireland	EPA
46	Romano	Ruggeri	Italy	ARPAS
47	Lilija	Dukaļska	Latvia	State Environmental Service
48	Inga	Seņavska	Latvia	State Environmental Service
49	Asta	Navickiene	Lithuania	Environmental Protection Department
50	Saule	Deveikyte	Lithuania	Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos ministerija
51	Annick	Fehr	Luxembourg	Administration de l'environnement
52	Daniel	Baqué	Luxembourg	Environmental Agency
53	Nur Hidayah	Binti Badri	Malaysia	Department of Environment
54	Fenny Wong	Nyuk Yin	Malaysia	Department of Environment
55	Chalie	Debrincat	Malta	Environment & Resources Authority
56	Ryan	Glenn Zammit	Malta	Environment & Resources Authority
57	Ruth	Grima	Malta	Environment & Resources Authority



ID	NAME	LAST NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
58	Kevin	Mercieca	Malta	Environment & Resources Authority
59	Marylyn	Sammut	Malta	Environment & Resources Authority
60	Alfred	Sharples	Malta	Environment & Resources Authority
61	Jan	Oomen	Netherlands	Customs
62	Rob	de Rijck	Netherlands	ENPE
63	Enes	Srndic	Netherlands	Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate
64	Huib	van Westen	Netherlands	ILENT
65	Åsne	Haaland	Norway	Norwegian Customs
66	Beate	Langset	Norway	Norwegian Environment Agency
67	Vanja	SVerdlilje	Norway	Norwegian Environment Agency
68	Edyta	Kozłowska-Kurek	Poland	Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection
69	Susana	Couto	Portugal	Ministério Público
70	Ana	Teixeira	Portugal	Portuguese Environment Agency
71	Rui	Videira	Portugal	Public Prosecution Office
72	Micaela	Freitas	Portugal	SRAAC
73	Tiago	Alves	Portugal	The General Inspection of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning
74	Monica	Crisan	Romania	National Environmental Guard
75	Bogdan	Săcăleanu	Romania	National Environmental Guard
76	Iveta	Kostelničáková	Slovakia	Slovenská inšpekcia životného prostredia Bratislava
77	Matjaz	Trost	Slovenia	Financial Administration of Republic Slovenia (Customs)
78	Bojan	Počkar	Slovenia	IRSOP
79	Ema	Starbek Gregorič	Slovenia	IRSOP
80	Carmen	Herreras	Spain	IMPEL
81	Celia	Sánchez Mayoral	Spain	Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge
82	Elena	Bronchalo	Spain	MITERD
83	Emma	Meijer Baath	Sweden	County Administrative Board of Gävleborg
84	Jonas	Lundin	Sweden	County Administrative Board of Norrbotten
85	Per	Nieminen	Sweden	County Administrative Board of Norrbotten
86	Martin	Elofsson	Sweden	National Unit for Environment and Working Environment Cases



ID	NAME	LAST NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
87	Anna	Lundmark Essen	Sweden	Naturvårdsverket
88	Johan	Boström	Sweden	Police
89	Max	Åkerlund	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
90	Margareta	Eriksson	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
91	Ulrika	Hagelin	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
92	Jenny	Järpler	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
93	Anna	Rosell	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
94	Anna	Sennström	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
95	Helge	Ziolkowski	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
96	Tatiana	Terekhova	Switzerland	BRS Secretariat/UNEP
97	Carla	Valle-Klann	Switzerland	BRS Secretariat/UNEP
98	Jeremy	Streather	Switzerland	Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (Swiss Customs)
99	Dalida	Matic	Switzerland	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
100	Simonne	Rufener	Switzerland	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
101	Vinati	Bhola	Switzerland	UNEP
102	Pinar	Topkaya	Turkey	IMPEL
103	Muhammed Tarik	Durmus	Turkey	Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change
104	Şenay	Arslan	Turkey	Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change
105	Pinar	Ece Karac	Turkey	Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change
106	Hannah	Wooldridge	UK	Environment Agency
107	Katie	Olley	UK	SEPA
108	Howard	McCann	UK (England)	Environment Agency
109	Steven	Leckey	UK (Northern Ireland)	NIEA
110	Allison	Townley	UK (Northern Ireland)	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
111	Laura	Gillan	UK (Scotland)	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
112	Jonathan	Hawke	UK (Wales)	Natural Resources Wales
112	Mark	Rhodes	UK (Wales)	Natural Resources Wales / Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
113				
113	Нао	Wu	United States of America	United Nations Environment Programme
	Hao Susana	Wu Araujo	United States of America	United Nations Environment Programme
114			United States of America	United Nations Environment Programme

