

# 4 NETWORKS DAY

Online conference

21 May 2021



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

**ZERO** #EUGreenWeek  
**POLLUTION**  
for healthier people and planet

Hosted by :  Life+ SATEC



# 4 NETWORKS DAY



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UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

## Together in the fight against environmental crime

**Date:** 21 May 2021

**Time:** 09:00 - 12:30 | 13:30 - 16:15 CET

**Location:** online, hosted by LIFE+ SATEC



# Illegal Plastic Waste Shipments

- Introduction
- Background
- Traditional Solution
- Basel Convention Amendments
- Ongoing Work
- Discussion Points



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# Introduction

- National Trans-Frontier Shipment Office, Dublin City Council
- Competent Authority (CA) for the enforcement of the Waste Shipment Regulation
- Active members of IMPEL
- Leading the 'Plastic Waste Shipments' project since 2019
- Input from partner countries
- Basel Guidance Document



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# Background

- Domestic, commercial and industrial applications
- Vital contribution to food safety and medical device manufacturing
- 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic produced as of 2017
- 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste generated as of 2015
- 9% recycled, 12% incinerated, 79% in landfills or the natural environment
- Estimated 4 – 12 million tonnes enters the oceans annually
- Public attention – ‘Blue Planet effect’



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# Traditional Solution

- Developed countries outsourced their plastic waste ‘recycling’ to less developed countries
- Insufficient infrastructure to process the residue
- Ocean plastic problem
- China was the main destination
- The ‘China Ban’
- Diversion to other Asian countries



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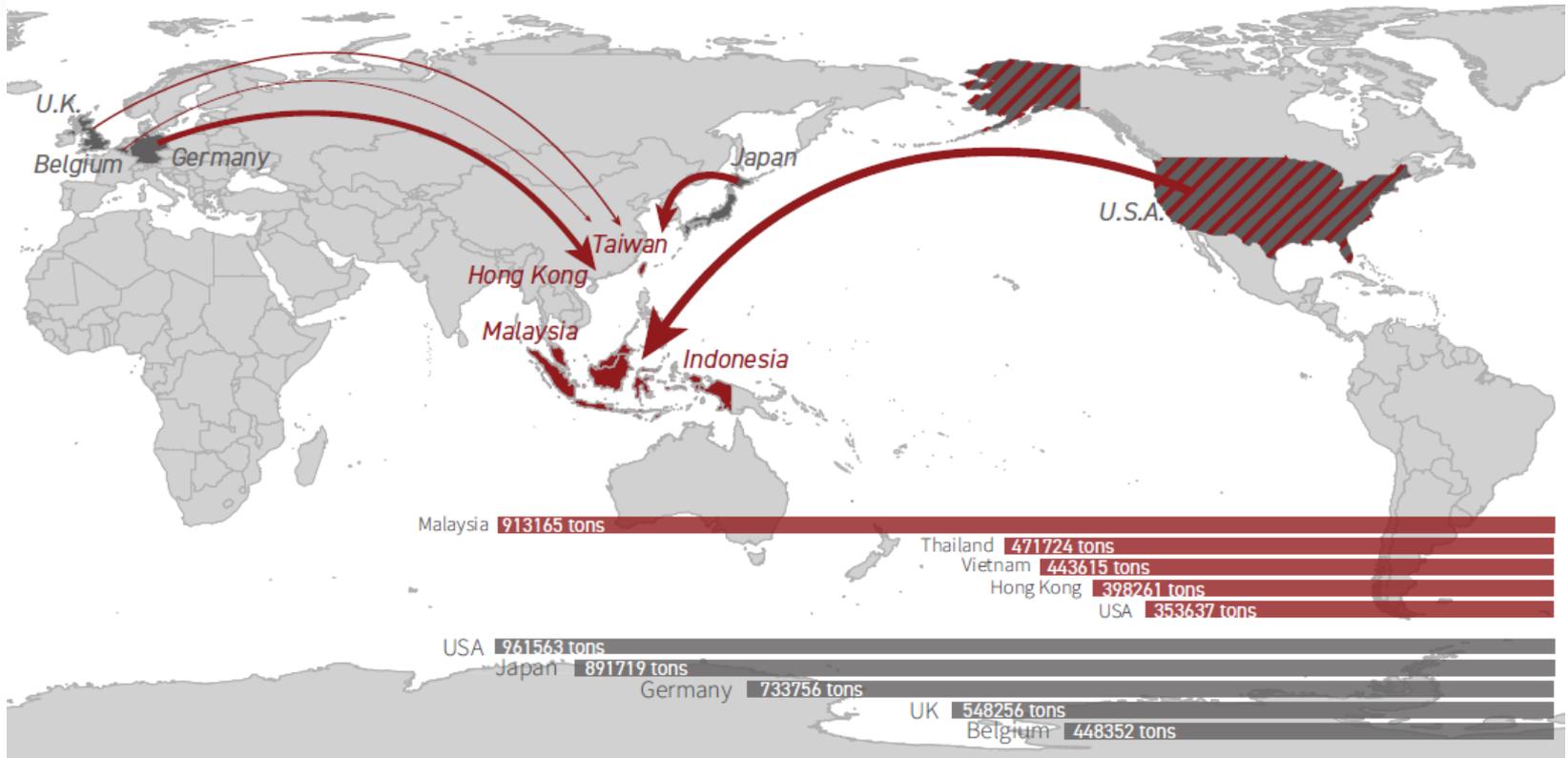


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## TOP IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS

January - November 2018



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# Basel Convention Amendments

- Primary instrument for regulating international waste shipments - EU countries have ratified it
- Pre 2021 – plastic waste could be shipped easily between countries as a ‘green-listed’ waste
- May 2019 – decision reached to amend the Basel Convention
- Restrictions introduced – mixtures of plastic waste from EU to non-OECD countries
- Some language open to interpretation



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# Single Polymer



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# Poorly sorted, mixed plastics



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# Plastic from waste electricals



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# Ongoing Work

- Competent authorities enforcing since January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Impact of Covid-19
- EU Correspondents' Guidelines
- Introduce threshold levels – limits on non-plastic
- Assist with prosecuting illegal shipments?
- IMPEL Basel Guidance document
- Revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)
- Facilitate less restrictions within the EU, more restrictions to non-OECD – Circular Economy



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# Discussion Points

- Environmental Crime Directive – what can be done in this revision to assist with the enforcement of the WSR? Can it assist with sharing information for evidential purposes?
- EU Multi-Annual policy cycle on serious organised crime – how can this policy assist environmental authorities in their investigation of illegal plastic waste shipments?
- What intelligence can be shared between police and environmental authorities regarding organised crime groups?
- What role can ENPE/EnviCrimeNet/EUFJE/IMPEL play in bridging these gaps?



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