



The WEEE chain of events
Key findings and recommendations
Legal Framework

Vittoria Luda di Cortemiglia
UNICRI

EU Forum of Judges for the Environment
Bolzano, 30 October 2015

The CWIT consortium Counteracting WEEE Illegal Trade

- Two year project, September 2013 – September 2015
- European Commission, 7th Framework Programme
- Coordination & Support Action, EU focus



Unique comprehensive analysis

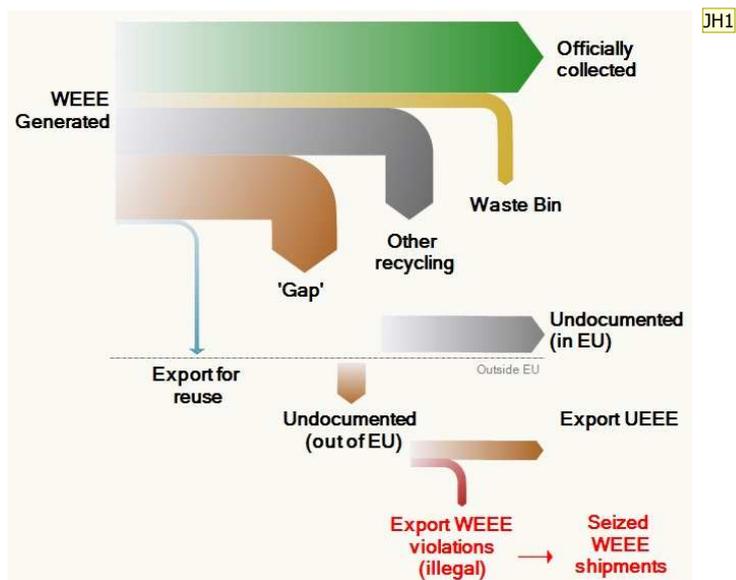
on:



- How much WEEE arises in Europe every year?
- Who is trading, how much, with whom? Where does WEEE end up to? What drives illegal trade?
- Is the legal framework sufficiently clear and unambiguous?
- Are Organised Crime Groups involved?
- **What do we recommend to address the situation?**

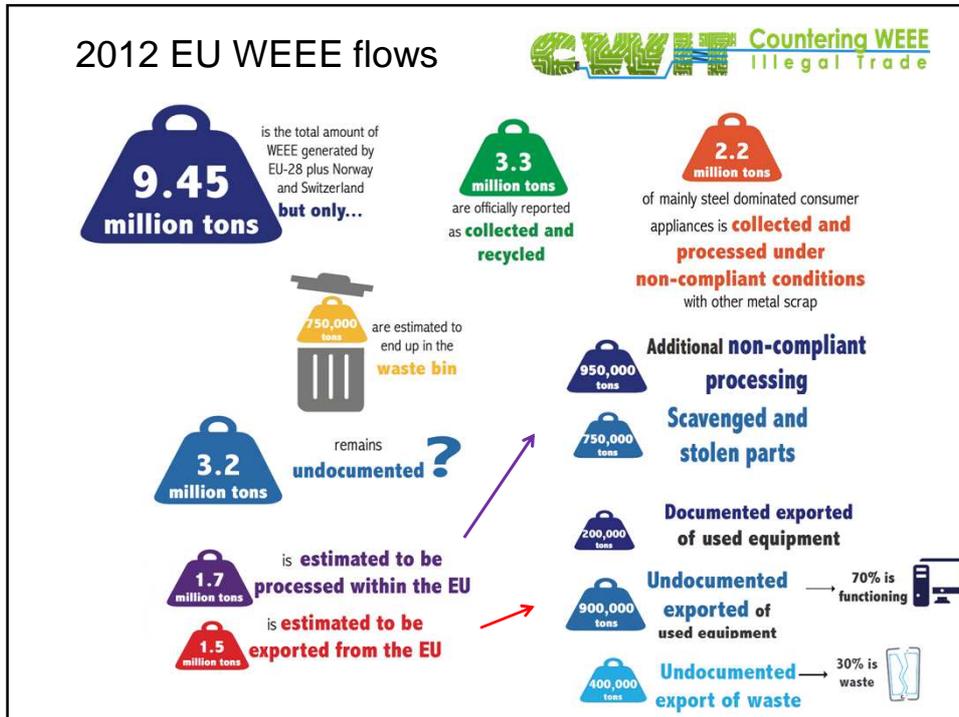


The WEEE chain of events



Dia 4

JH1 Will be built up step by step...
Jaco0742; 16-06-15



Economic impact on EU economy

€300-600 million due to **bad disposal behaviour consumers**

+ 150 to 600 M € in avoided compliance costs

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Export

Products and 1.5 million tons is estimated to be **exported out of the EU**

- 200,000 tons** Documented exported of used equipment
- 900,000 tons** Undocumented exported of used equipment → 70% is functioning
- 400,000 tons** Undocumented export of waste → 30% is waste

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More enforcement?

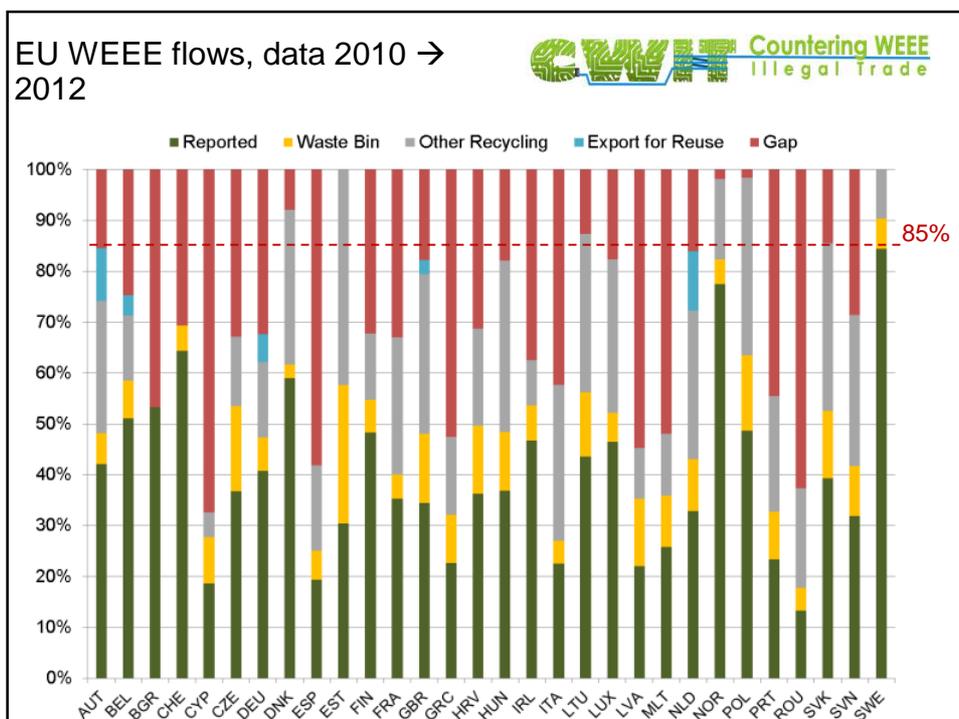


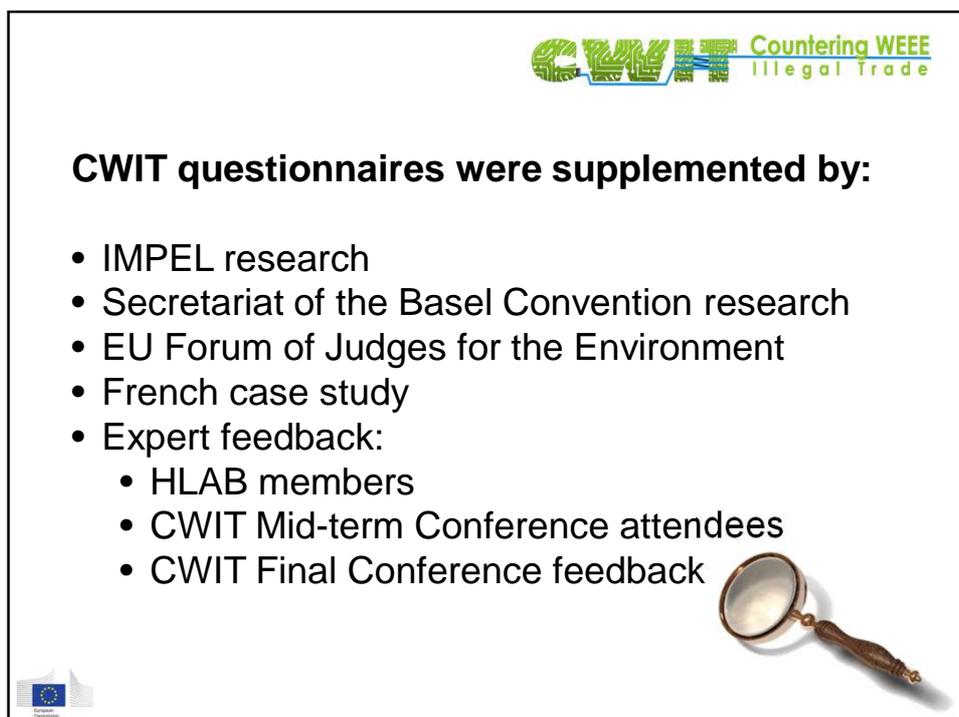
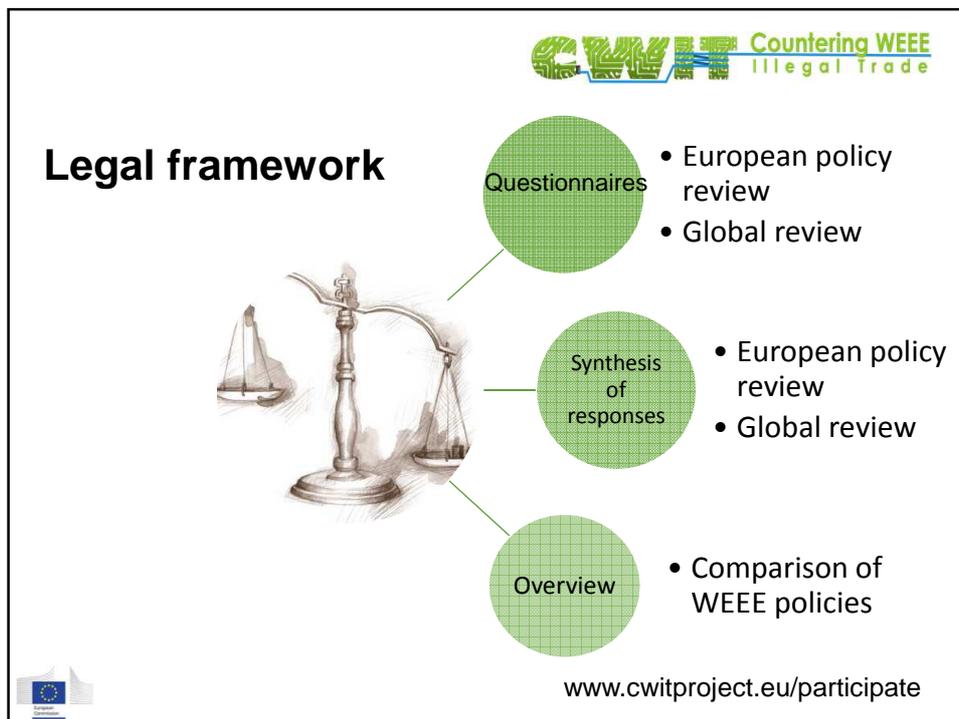


Undocumented export of waste → 30% is waste

only 2,000 tons seized & prosecuted







Analysis of:

- Requirements for functionality testing
- Targets and reporting
- WEEE treatment conditions
- Packaging of used EEE
- Permits required (collection, transportation, storage, treatment).
- Type of liability (civil, criminal, administrative),
- Actors involved
- Severity of the penalties applied.



WP 3 Legal Framework Analysis

Legal Framework



- Lack of full transposition across the EU
- Lack of harmonisation in provision and penalties among EU countries
- Differences in waste classification system, allowed levels of contamination
- Definition of when an illegal shipment starts

Detection



- Lack of human resources
- Difficulty in distinguishing between UEEE and WEEE
- Lack of a unified information system among national agencies
- Lack of international information sharing

Arrest/ enforcement action



- Cumbersome evidence collection process
- Limited investigative powers due to the low severity of the crime
- Fine too low to deter non-compliant behavior

Prosecution



- Only most severe cases are taken to prosecution
- High burden of proof
- Difficulty in proving who is responsible for a shipment

Conviction



- Lack of reporting on outcomes of WEEE cases taken to the judiciary.



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The legal framework, implementation and enforcement

Recommendations

- Consistent interpretation and guidelines for waste vs non-waste
- Improve waste codification
- Train authorities
- Harmonise penalty systems

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Illegal Trade

Waste Classification Codes

See also: <http://ias.unu.edu/en/research/e-waste-quantification.html#outputs>

Waste or used EEE?

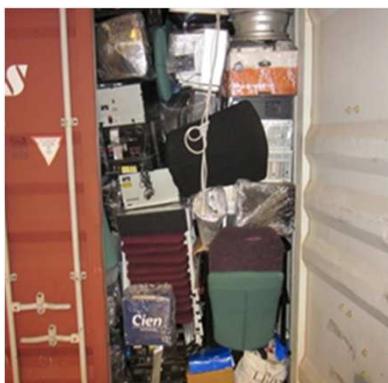


Distinguishing waste from non-waste is critical for all actors in the WEEE chain

There is no global definition/ scoping of 'WEEE'

Uncertainty leads to opportunities for WEEE concealed and falsely declared as UEEE

Lack of clarity is a major obstacle in the prosecution of cases (EUROJUST)



Existing guidelines:

- EU legislation & Guidelines
- Basel Technical Guidelines
- IMPEL
- INTERPOL
- UNU Keys
- StEP Initiative
- OECD Guidelines
- Member States including Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, UK, Nordic Waste Group

Guidelines refer to:

- Definition of WEEE/e-waste
- Codification of waste
- Inspection procedures
- Training of inspection and enforcement personnel
- Functionality testing
- Appropriate protection/ packing for used goods
- Treatment & management
- Illegal behaviour – penalties and sanctions



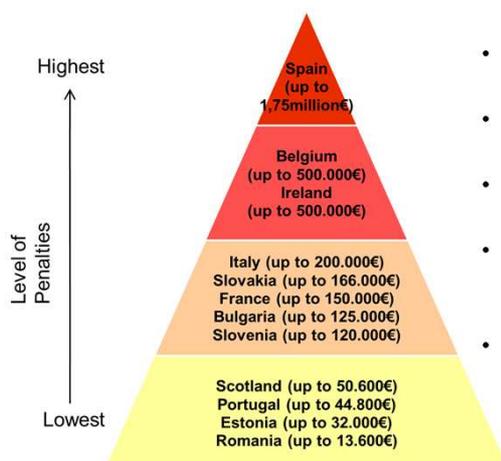
Waste v non-waste?

Clarifying the distinction between waste vs used goods:

- Identification of WEEE
- Facilitates information sharing between agencies
- Enhancing use of resources for inspection, detection, prosecution & sentencing of WEEE related illegal activities.



Financial penalties



- Low probability of prosecution & sentencing
- Current penalties are not a deterrent – usually only administrative in nature
- Fines imposed are often less than the profit of one illegal shipment
- More stringent penalties would reduce the attractiveness of illegal WEEE activities
- Harmonizing penalties would reduce the risk of displacement of crime





**Recommendation:
Harmonise and enhance penalty systems**

- Assess national penalty systems to ascertain if penalties are proportionate & dissuasive.
- Increase penalty levels for natural persons who are company representatives
- Harmonise offences related to WEEE crimes at EU level (i.e. minimum standards for offences, definition of penalties and degree of severity of offences)
- Harmonise penalty types at EU level
- Introduce specific penalties to tackle organised crime involvement in illegal WEEE activities
- Introduce EU wide ban on cash transactions for trade in scrap metal



Thank you for your attention

Visit the CWIT website:
www.cwitproject.eu

This project and the research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 312605

