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## **European Network for Environmental Crime (EnviCrimeNet)**

**Who:**

- Environmental crime investigation services / competent authorities in Europe (33 jurisdictions)

**What:**

- Developing a vibrant network of experts enhancing effectiveness in the fight against organised environmental crime

**How:**

- Exchange of information and experiences related to exchanging best practices in dealing with environmental crime

**Based on:**

- EU Council Resolution 10291/11 d.d. 09-10 June 2011



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## Intelligence Project Environmental Crime

European scan environmental crime to identify:

- Types
- Extend
- Threats
- Recommendations

Project Team: EnviCrimeNet and Europol



# Typically OCG involvement

**reported for cases of:**

- Illegal trade in endangered species /related products also on the Internet;
- Illegal collection, (cross-border) transport and storage including dumping of (hazardous and electronic) waste and recycling;
- Illegal shipping of (hazardous and electronic) waste;
- Illegal logging;
- Illegal hunting/poaching;
- Trade in counterfeit pesticides;
- Illegal activities in relation to fuel oil;
- Illegal fishing activities;
- Forest fires.



# Impact and Damages

- (Un) polluted Environment; climate
- Disruption of economical balances , creation of black markets
- Extinction of species; biodiversity; spreading of diseases
- Public health; poisoned citizens, diseases; reduced life expectancy
- Society and security of citizens; food chain
- Reputation of the EU



# Conclusions 1

- Environmental crime: broad area of criminality
- Primarily undertaken to gain (illicit) profits
- Statistics are not productive
- Number of registered crime correlates with number of controls
- Only efficient controls can uncover criminal cases
- No investigations if management authority's work is inhibited or inefficient, or the interface for transferring cases to law enforcement is ineffective - This is the case in most of Europe and that is why it is impossible to make an analysis.



## Conclusions 2

- Many criminal cases are dismissed and only a few result in a sentence
- Limited financial and human resources
- Lack of national, international and inter-departmental cooperation
- Environmental crimes are on the rise
- Attractive to organised crime structures and networks
- High profit, low detection risk and low or no sanction at all
- Most attractive areas are: waste, endangered species and dangerous chemicals/pesticides



# Recommendations

(wish list)

- Target the profit
- Prioritise certain areas
- Training of staff
- Work internationally, more cooperation
- Achieve cooperation also with management agencies
- Revision of Directive(s)
- Central unit/agencies (multi-agency or NEST)
- Intelligence-led law enforcement



# Message AGM EnviCrimeNet oct 2015

- Uniform definition in regulations
  - environmental crime, fraud, money laundering, counterfeit, murder
- Obligation to share information
  - Administrative rules/legislation permits/licenses, administrative offenses,
  - Inform prosecutor / police / environmental criminal agencies
- Environmental Crime = organized Crime
  - Legal powers, (wire tapping, tele ommunicatie)
- Multidisciplinair Inspections

The fifth EnviCrimeNet Annual General Meeting, hosted by the Italian Corpo Forestale dello Stato (CFS) and the Italian Carabinieri, was held on 21 and 22 October in Milan (Italy). Experts and practitioners from Europol, the European Commission and 16 European countries, met to discuss best practices, latest developments and challenges posed by environmental crime. For the last five years, Europol has provided the permanent Secretariat for this informal network of practitioners combating environmental and wildlife crime. The two-day meeting covered wildlife-related crimes, with a particular focus on illegal waste trade, criminal behavior in relation to safety and industrial plants, and illegal logging. The joint EnviCrimeNet/Europol Intelligence Project on Environmental Crime (IPEC) presented its final results, the IPEC Report and a related upcoming Background Paper. Among the meeting's conclusions, a number of projects and further recommendations for law enforcement and other stakeholders were proposed. Experts agreed that, while it is often believed that poaching and illegal hunting is primarily a problem in African or Asian countries, the illegal hunting, trafficking and breeding of wolves is a problem for many European countries. Other concerns in Europe are the illegal logging and timber trade, as well as the health and safety dangers posed by the illegal textile waste trade. In particular, the huge illicit profits gained through logging and textile waste trade require increased focus from law enforcement as well as more public awareness. Other outcomes from the meeting were: Spain decided to join the Steering Group of EnviCrimeNet. Mr. Roel Willekens from the Dutch Police will chair the network for another year. During its Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2016, Dutch law enforcement authorities will put a focus on financial investigations related to environmental crimes. Slovakia will make environmental crime an important topic during their Presidency in the second half of 2016. France, represented by OCLAESP, intends to further increase its activities in relation to environmental crimes. The Italian Carabinieri will continue the EU-wide waste trafficking project TECUM.



Environmental crime is not an emerging threat:  
The crimes are happening already!

Emerging, though, is the damage caused by  
these crimes.

[www.envicrimenet.com](http://www.envicrimenet.com)

[www.Europol.com](http://www.Europol.com)