

PLASTIC WASTE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

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CHALLENGE

- Competition between production and disposal
- Free/cheap feedstock
- Small domestic recycling capability
- Large financial opportunity for receiving countries
- Limited recycling capability
- Poorly equipped/resourced competent authorities
- Ineffective regulatory framework

OPPORTUNITY

- High demand
- Limited options
- Low cost/High profit
- Weak regulatory framework
- Low chances of detection
- Low consequences if caught =



THREATS

- Re-routing of Illegal waste to new, more vulnerable countries
- Increase in illegal disposal of waste
- Corruption/Rule of law
- OCG infiltration of legitimate businesses
- Prevent meaningful domestic recycling programs

ACTORS

- Brokers
- Transporters
- Customs Officers
- Recyclers

LEGAL VS. ILLEGAL BUSINESSES

Legitimate

- Concealment
- Misdeclaration
- Illegal Dumping
- Fraud
- Tax fraud
- Money Laundering

Illegitimate

- Fronts
- Fraud
- Forged documents
- Money laundering
- Corruption
- Drugs, human trafficking etc.

Special unit created to fight "trash mafia" that illegally burn and dump waste in Poland



Poland's 'trash mafia' profiting on UK waste import: report



The landfill fire in Zgierz was one of the major incidents which prompted the government and the press to investigate into the activities of the 'trash mafia'. Photo: PAP/Grzegorz Michalowski

LATEST NEWS

- Smile of fortune: ensnared bison heifer freed
- Poland 'black spot' on smog map of Europe
- EBRD bank plans to invest EUR 650 mln in Poland
- Polish management studies high in FT ranking
- Poles and Czechs share interests, goals: official
- Russian pipeline 'threatens energy security of Europe': NGO
- Gdańsk mayor and his main rival clash
- Over 75 pct illegal foreign workers found at job placement company

From Russia with love: Poland awarded for

Italian police bust 'Mafia plastic recycling ring'

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Italian police say 15 people were detained during a raid in Sicily

Criminal recycling scams 'profit from plastic waste surge'

Kelly Macnamara (Agence France-Presse)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Better LE cooperation at national/international level
- More intelligence/information
- Work with legitimate private sector groups
- Work with non-governmental actors
- Improved waste tracking capability (e.g., electronic tracking)
- Enforcement isn't solution – prevention is!
- But need to acknowledge enforcement as a priority in any meaningful regulatory scheme



<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-alerts-to-sharp-rise-in-plastic-waste-crime>



<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/illicit-trade-plastic-waste/>

Questions?

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