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
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

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

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

Roel. Willekens@politie.nl
+316 51 33 21 95