

European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment

Réseau des Procureurs Européens pour l'environnement



ENPE newsletter - Issue 24

23 June 2025

Message from ENPE President Rob de Rijck

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the first ENPE newsletter of 2025, a landmark year in more ways than one for us as we continue to strengthen the fight against environmental crime, in particular, through the new EU Environmental Crime Directive (ECD) [2024/1203](#). Our work here has started in earnest with ENPE co-chairing, co-organising & co-hosting the recent **4 Networks**



Conference Making the new Environmental Crime Directive work: Cooperation/Prevention/Enforcement on 21-22 May 2025 at Bratislava Castle, Slovakia. The conference was a great success with over 230 attendees present in person and more than 130 joining online. The energy and focus of the delegates with targeted breakout sessions and plenary presentations from many European environmental enforcement specialists created a busy and engaged atmosphere. Everyone was keen to learn and share, with very positive feedback already received. Please look out for the summary 'E-zine' which will be published on the network websites in the coming weeks.

My opening speech focussed on the need for concerted effort in the ECD implementation and transposition and how we at ENPE can assist. With this in mind, we re-convened our three specialist ENPE Working Groups in the margins of the Bratislava conference, with topics of focus shared. More details will follow, but we are committed to providing you with awareness-raising and guidance in the ECD implementation, including sharing best practices wherever possible.

Separately, we have been busy attending and participating in events across Europe and beyond, including the **UNwaste final meeting and conference in Kula Lumpur**, and at the **Santa Fe conference for the network of environmental prosecutors of Argentina**. More information about these events below. I was also pleased to present and chair sessions at the **Eurojust Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project regional conference in Ohrid, North Macedonia**. Noting that environmental crime does not recognise borders, we must consider its impact beyond Europe and the dilemmas we share with our colleague prosecutors elsewhere. We hope that you find this ENPE newsletter of interest as we look forward to a busy and productive Summer. With our Best Wishes, Rob de Rijck ENPE President and Shaun Robinson ENPE Project Manager.

[4NC family photo: 4NC Steering group]

4 Networks conference: Making the Environmental Crime Directive work; Bratislava castle; 21-22 May 2025; Bratislava, Slovakia

The 4 EU environmental enforcement Networks, EUFJE - The European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment, ENPE - European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, IMPEL - European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law and EnviCrimeNet organized a joint Conference hosted by Slovakian Republic authorities, in Bratislava, on the 21st and 22nd of May 2025, dedicated to the new Environmental Crime Directive (ECD), [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024](#).



[photo: M Falconi, IMPEL]

More than 220 practitioners - regulators, permitters, inspectors, police, prosecutors and judges - presented, shared and discussed procedures and solutions to make the implementation of the articles from the ECD “work on the ground”.

The Conference was an opportunity to share procedures, methodologies and discuss practical work from



many Members States authorities, and from international and European Union authorities, including the European Commission, Joint Research Centre, European Environmental Agency (EEA), European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), European Union Satellite Centre (SATCEN), European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), CEPOL, EUROJUST, EUROPOL and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Signing the MoU at the 4 Networks Conference 2025 [photo: M Falconi, IMPEL]

IMPEL, ENPE and EnviCrimeNet signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and together with EUFJE restated their full commitment to continue to work together involving all the actors of the compliance chain, promoting and sharing practices and work on solutions to strengthen the fight against environmental crime.

The conference report, including all presentations for sharing and all other proceedings, will soon be available via the network website in the form of an electronic magazine, or ‘E-zine’, which will also include video interviews and summaries of the event. Please keep in touch with the websites in the coming weeks where it will be accessible via a shared link. The conference organisers and the Four Networks would like to sincerely thank our hosts in Bratislava, all presenters and of course the participants, both in person and online, in making the event such a success.

News from the European Commission

The Head of Unit from the Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV), Felix Bloch, provided a very positive opening on the new Environmental Crime Directive (ECD) at the 4 Networks Bratislava conference on 21 May 2025. Commitments and challenges for MS and enforcing authorities were set out and addressed.



On the same theme, we were pleased to contribute to the **Second**

Workshop on the transposition of the Environmental Crime Directive on 12/06/2025, organised by DG JUST. Diana Helila, Permanent Representative for the ENPE Full Member for Estonia, attended and made an intervention on behalf of ENPE and reported on a busy and successful event. This area of work is very much a priority for ENPE as we progress our activities over the coming few years.

On that note, we signed the latest three-year Grant Agreement under the Framework Partnership Agreement with the Commission on 13 May and, having earlier in the year met with the new Deputy Head of unit, Ms Diana Fusco and her team on 19 January 2025, we are looking forward to working collaboratively with the Commission around the current and future aquis of EU environment crime enforcement.

ENPE AISBL news

ENPE Annual General Meeting 30 June 2025

ENPE will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30 June 2025, as a hybrid event with both 'in person' attendance at our registered office at Scotland Europa, Scotland House, Schuman, Brussels, and online. Officer reports will be presented to the membership from the President and the Secretary General, and a financial report will be shared. For our last AGM in September 2024, the Board was delighted that so many ENPE members and Observers attended and we look forward to another well-attended and fruitful meeting.

ENPE Membership update

Since our last newsletter in December 2024, ENPE has received and approved a Full Membership application from the General Prosecutor's Office of the **Republic of Bulgaria**. They have nominated **Mr Danail Shostak** as Permanent Representative. Mr Shostak has already made a significant contribution to the network in checking and approving a set of training slides, translated from English to Bulgarian for the ERA training workshop focussed on **Biodiversity and EU nature protection legislation – with a focus on the Habitats & Birds Directive** on 19 March earlier this year. We are grateful to Mr Shostak and his office for this support. As ever, we are very pleased with our continuing growth and expansion and welcome Mr Shostak and his office to the ENPE network.

ENPE at the Eurojust Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project conference: *Tackling Environmental Crime in the Western Balkans through Cross-Border Cooperation* 18-19 June 2025

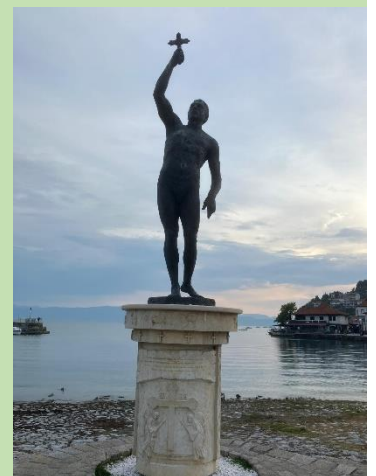


On June 18 and 19, Rob de Rijck was in Ohrid, North-Macedonia, to represent ENPE in the Eurojust Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project *Tackling Environmental Crime in the Western Balkans through Cross-Border Cooperation*. The event brought together representatives from six countries across the Balkans region of South-Eastern Europe to focus on collaboration in fighting environmental

crime. Other enforcement organisations present were EUROPOL, The European Agency for Law Enforcement Co-operation; CEPOL, The European Agency for Law Enforcement Training, and OLAF, the European Anti-fraud office, as were two NGO's. Comprising a busy programme of case studies, presentations on relevant projects and breakout sessions it was very well organised and productive. Rob was the third of three opening speakers, and in his speech Rob noted the two key aspects clearly coming together at the conference:

- 1) its theme – “International collaboration and coherence in combating environmental crime is at the heart of all that ENPE does. This type of crime is a very serious threat to the world’s health and to man’s health. It is difficult to understand why it is continuously underestimated, both in the political and in the legal world. And it must be observed that within environmental crime, some areas are even more underestimated”; and
- 2) the direction ENPE wants to take - “we find ourselves at an important moment in time. This is because of the revised EU Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law. It was published in April 2024 and is commonly referred to as the Ecocrime Directive. A result of this Directive which is already very apparent is the impulse it creates for environmental criminal law. This strong momentum also leads ENPE to reach out more and to build a stronger connection with prosecutors’ offices in candidate EU member states and aspiring EU member states.”

Rob’s involvement continued with a presentation on ENPE’s activities and in chairing a discussion session on illegal pesticides. New contacts were made and further collaboration committed to in future. [photos: R de Rijck]



ENPE representation at UNWASTE prosecutors workshop and final conference, Malaysia 21-26 April 2025

ENPE Waste & Illegal Pesticides Working Group member Howard McCann, a prosecutor from the Environment Agency, England, UK represented ENPE at a recent series of events in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as part of the conclusion of the UNODC, UNEP and EU-funded UNwaste project.

[Howard McCann pictured below at the workshop with colleagues from the UNwaste event [photo courtesy of UNwaste]



The prosecutors' workshop was a very successful event, which started proceedings at the beginning of the week. From the summary report: "Recognising the need to strengthen prosecutorial understanding and capability in addressing these offences, UNODC, through its UNwaste and Criminal Justice Programmes - convened a pilot skillshare session for Malaysian prosecutors. The training,

held on 21 April 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, focused on the legal frameworks applicable to waste crime, challenges in applying Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), and best practices from international casework. Meeting Objectives The session was designed to:

- Equip Malaysian prosecutors with a stronger understanding of the applicable international and national legal frameworks governing waste trafficking.
- Provide practical guidance on international cooperation tools, particularly MLA and SEAJust.
- Present successful prosecution case studies from Malaysia, Viet Nam, and the United Kingdom.
- Create space for prosecutors and enforcement agencies to share institutional experiences and identify systemic barriers to prosecution."

Amongst other very interesting and complex cases, Howard outlined several high-profile UK prosecutions carried out in coordination with EU authorities under the Waste Shipment Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 and Basel Convention obligations and stressed the utility of Article 9 of the Basel Convention.



The closing conference on the Thursday & Friday proved equally stimulating and well attended. Howard discussed Environmental Sentencing Guidelines, which was well received – UNEP lawyers were keen to know more and suggested possible judicial training in the future. In summary, it was extremely worthwhile for Howard to attend the Workshop and Conference and ENPE's presence sent a strong message that we take waste trafficking seriously and that if our network and experience can assist, we will offer whatever help we can, in whatever form we can. For more information, please see: [Unwaste](#) [group photo courtesy of UNwaste]

ENPE training, outreach and representation at recent events



ENPE Supporting member Professor Remus Jurj, an Assistant Professor of Environmental Criminal Law based at the Maritime University of Constanta, provided a training pack on behalf of ENPE at the recent EJTN training on environmental law on 28-29 April 2025. [image from R Jurj]

Professor Jurj focussed on

the new Environmental Crime Directive 2024/1203, with emphasis placed on tackling waste crime, which remains a topic of huge significance. The training delivered was enhanced with a selection of relevant case studies, exemplifying how waste crime is prosecuted. The training was very well received and we look forward to continuing to provide experts to these type of events in future.

[For more details on this, and other related training, please contact shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk]

ENPE contributions to European Academy of Law – ERA – training on environmental law

We were delighted to hear that our colleagues at the European Academy of Law (ERA) were successful in tendering for a 4-year framework contract on 'Cooperation with national judges and prosecutors in the field of environmental law'.

We had provided our institutional support to this proposal and have continued to work closely in ERA training sessions. The new framework contract will run for 4 years, during which we hope to have the opportunity to continue to collaborate in various ways to support the workshops that will be organised across the EU.

In the meantime, ENPE members and representatives have delivered training at the following ERA events:

- **27-29 January 2025, Bucharest, Romania:** where Supporting Member Professor Remus Jurj attended and delivered training sessions;
- **19-21 February 2025, Vienna, Austria:** where ENPE Secretary General Anne Brosnan attended and delivered training sessions;

- **19-21 March 2025, Sofia, Bulgaria:** where our new Permanent Representative for the **Supreme Prosecutor's Office**, our **ENPE Full Member for Bulgaria, Mr Danail Shostak** checked translated slides on EU Nature protection and the Habitats Directive for accuracy and our **Observer member TRAFFIC**, through representative **Vinciane Sacre**, offered a speaker at very short notice; and finally
- **07-08 May 2025, Florence, Italy:** where our Supporting Member Valerio Bagattini provided presentations and case studies in relation to a Habitats Directive and EIA training workshop.

We are hugely grateful to all our members and colleagues who participate in these events and are always looking for willing participants should the opportunity arise in your region.

Conference of the Red Argentina de Fiscalías Ambientales (RAFA) 15-16 May, 2025 Santa Fe, Argentina



[from RAFA conference Programme cover]

Our ENPE Board member **Dr Antonio Vercher Noguera (in person)** and **Rob de Rijck (online)** were both presenting at the recent **Argentine Network of Environmental Prosecutors (Red Argentina de Fiscalías Ambientales -RAFA) conference**, held in Santa Fe, Argentina, and online via weblink on the **15-16 May 2025**.

Rob provided a summary of ENPE's role, history & objectives, emphasising the global nature of environmental crime and our growing reach into non-European regions such as the Americas, both North and South. This was particularly helpful to the network given their very recent establishment in November 2024.

Antonio provided the opening address in his capacity as President of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE). The event was well attended with representatives from prosecutor groups from across South and Central America, and with a **common commitment to organisation, training and collaboration**. Going forward, we look forward to a fruitful relationship with RAFA and other organisations involved in prosecuting environmental crime in the region.

TAIEX-EIR Multi-country Flagship Workshop on environmental compliance and governance

Rob de Rijck presented at the **TAIEX-EIR Multi-country flagship workshop on environmental compliance and governance in Brussels on 18 March 2025.**

The workshop was part of engagement under the auspices of the EU Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum and aims at ensuring involvement of various stakeholders to widen their perspective on the environment.

Its main aim was to update on recent developments on Environmental Compliance

Assurance, an initiative ENPE has been contributing to for a number of years, with particular reference to the new Environmental Crime Directive (ECD) 2024/ 1203.

Another key aim was to facilitate the sharing of experience amongst the participants on good environmental compliance assurance practices, including the effective and timely transposition of the ECD.

The **41 registered participants and 14 speakers** from the European Institutions, EU Member States and networks working on environmental crime and environmental compliance assurance and governance included representatives from **21 EU Member States** resulting in wide-ranging, but focussed discussion.



Interesting cases

€13 million confiscation order issued in Dutch biodiesel and feed fraud case

On 23 December 2024 the Amsterdam district court issued a confiscation order of almost €13 million against the owner of a group of companies that were active in the biodiesel and feed business. Although the prosecution office had requested the far higher sum of €83 million euros, the order issued by the court is still one of the highest ever in a case handled by the envicrime unit in the Netherlands. The case touches upon several relevant topics in state-of-the-art confiscation proceedings in envicrime cases in the Netherlands and shows that our legal system allows for serious confiscation measures on the one hand, although on the other hand, the bar is set high by the courts, resulting in legally and practically complex and time-consuming projects.

Under Dutch law, a confiscation measure is only possible after a conviction. Thus, the company and natural person were first prosecuted for fraud committed against the Animal-byproducts Regulation and the legal instruments on biodiesel, and connected forgeries to cover the fraud. The fraud consisted amongst others, of illegally procuring feed from non-registered suppliers, illegally selling it as proper feed, producing biodiesel using an insufficient method, and exporting improperly handled animal byproducts (raising animal and human safety issues). They were convicted for these crimes in July 2023, opening the way for the confiscation proceedings.

Under Dutch law, a confiscation order can be issued both in relation to the proceeds of crimes for which the suspects were specifically convicted, as well as any other crimes for which “sufficient indications exist”. The court has to estimate the proceeds of crime, and the most (used?) method to do is the “transaction method”. Using this method, the court needs to calculate the net profit involved. This means the costs made by the suspect to commit the crime must be deducted: confiscation is not to be confused with punishment.

In situations where a crime is committed regularly or continuously, the court may extrapolate from a smaller sample. Further, a peculiarity in envicrime cases is often that they involve the illegal saving of costs, where cost reductions may also be confiscated. Here, this applied to the biodiesel production, which was illegal because not enough (costly) heat was used to sterilize the product. Finally, a rather relevant point to make, is that the convicted owner of a company may be held personally responsible for the confiscation of proceeds of crime made primarily in the convicted company if it can be proved that that person could, and did, personally benefit from those proceeds.

Although Dutch law thereby allows wide possibilities of confiscation, there are numerous complications that make these proceedings quite complicated and their results often disappointing. I will mention three examples also relevant in this case.

Firstly, albeit that the courts formally “estimate” the proceeds of crime, they do require a quite high standard of proof. In practice, this requires us to make a rather detailed reconstruction of the convicted company’s business administration or financial flows specific to the crime, showing the gross turnover and related costs. In a complex company this is both difficult and a lot of work. In fact, this company was too large to feasibly do this in the detail the court later required.

Secondly, the calculations to be made are usually non-evident, as it is often open to discussion which part of the company’s costs and proceeds are sufficiently connected to the crime. For example, should the depreciation costs of the truck fleet be deducted, completely or partially? The case law on this issue is not entirely clear or consistent.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, a lot of ambiguity is raised by the fact that usually money is made illegally in a company that has in principle a valid legal base to operate, and in which fraudulent activities are only part of its activities. In these circumstances, the courts have to do a mental experiment where they erase the crime from the situation and then estimate what that means financially. But this mental experiment is actually quite hard, and requires a lot of assumptions on what the suspect might have done in the hypothesis where all was legal. In this case, this problem was present in the biodiesel crimes: was the proceed of crime just the saving of energy costs, or should the sale of the improperly produced biodiesel also be confiscated?

Whereas in this case the PPS (the National Office for Serious Fraud, Environmental Crime and Asset Confiscation) argued that the company had become a completely illegal entity because crime was pervasive in its entire business, and that therefore the entire net profits before taxes should be confiscated, the court ruled in agreement with the defence that one should concentrate on determining what the most reasonable legal alternative was for the company, and calculate the illegal costs avoided and/or money made by undertaking a particular/specific illegal activity. The court subsequently based its verdict to an important extent on the counter-expertise that the defendants put forward and which was based on the company’s administration. It is only possible to seriously contradict such a report by reassembling the investigative team which had of course been disbanded years ago. It was decided this was not feasible.

As indicated above, the end result was €13million, where €83million was the stake. I guess it’s a matter of perspective whether this is a good or a bad result. A personal view from the prosecutor involved was that the result is actually quite in line with most larger cases, where the complications above usually also lead to a substantial limiting of the confiscation measure sought. Given that the convicted companies stopped

existing due to the case, and that the natural person will have to pay personally, they take the view that realistically, the prosecutors should be quite pleased. For a link to the full details (in Dutch) see below:

[ECLI:NL:RBNHO:2024:13413, Rechtbank Noord-Holland, 81/306394-22 \(ontneming\)](https://ecli.nl:RBNHO:2024:13413_Rechtbank Noord-Holland_81/306394-22_(ontneming))

Two company directors in Northern Ireland have been jailed for their roles in running one of the largest illegal dumps in Europe.

[RTE online, Ireland 07/06/2025; Vincent Kearny, Northern Ireland Editor]

A judge at Derry Crown Court described their actions as an environmental crime on an industrial scale.

The vast Mobuoy dump outside Derry is thought to cover more than 100 acres of land, or the size of about 70 football pitches. It is located beside the River Faughan, which supplies a large proportion of Derry's drinking water.

A 67-year-old director of Campsie Sand and Gravel Ltd, from Culmore Road in Derry pleaded guilty to seven waste offences between 2007 and 2013 and was sentenced to 12 months in custody on each count, to run concurrently.

His co-accused, a 56-year-old director of City Industrial Waste Ltd, from Westlake in Derry, pleaded guilty to three offences and was sentenced to 21 months in custody on each count, to run concurrently.

Sentencing the defendants, the judge said they had acted deliberately and had been "entirely motivated by financial gain".

For the full story, please see below:

<http://www.rte.ie/news/courts/2025/0606/1517140-pair-jailed-for-roles-in-one-of-europes-largest-dumps/>

The case of Cannavacciuolo and others against Italy, or how Spain can end up becoming the garbage dump of Europe (Judgment of January 30, 2025. European Court of Human Rights)

[Antonio Vercher Noguera Public Prosecutor for the Environment and Urban Planning Diario LA LEY, Nº 10677, Sección Tribuna, March 5, 2025, LA LEY LAW 1714/2025]

Summary: The judgment of 30 January 2025 of the European Court of Human Rights addresses the problem of irregular and criminal management of hazardous waste in the Campania region of Italy. It is one of the most difficult and complex sentences handed down by the highly reputable judicial body. It is interesting to apply the content of the judgment to the evolution of this same problem in Spain, with which, almost inevitably, we observe similarities. ENPE Board member, Dr Antonio Vercher Noguera has carried out an analysis of this.

Overview: The dismantling in Spain of a mafia network that transported hazardous waste to Spain from Italy (is still recent, with the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), Cannavacciuolo and Others v. Italy having been made public. As the Spanish example is a case in which a problem of illegal waste management arises similar to that analysed in the judgment just referred to – only that in the case of the ECtHR judgment the events took place exclusively in Italian territory, whereas, in the Spanish case, although the waste came precisely from Italy, the facts take place in Spain – which is why an analysis of the judgment in question was carried out by Dr Vercher Noguera.

In the end, the argument is none other than that of the saying: “when you see your neighbour's beard shaving, put yours to soak”. Moreover, the modus operandi of the alleged crime that occurred in Spain was carried out taking advantage of, among other factors, the low prices of waste management there.

This factor helps explain the fact that waste has and does arrive in Spain illegally from other European countries such as France, and is a growing concern. Given the significance and involvement of organised crime, it is a problem that is one of the greatest concerns within the European Union (EU).

This explains why the EU has taken measures to combat criminal networks involved in any form of environmental crime, in particular by adopting rules on trade in wild fauna and flora species and, in particular, on waste management.

As is known, the EU is also working to strengthen existing rules on environmental protection through criminal law. In fact, the issue of waste has been dealt with in the recent Directive, making clear, in paragraph 18 of its Preamble, the obligation on the part of the Member States to give criminal treatment to this type of conduct.

[For a copy of the full analysis please contact shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk]

Two cases from Sweden

1) Wolverine poaching case, March 2025

[From Lars Magnusson, ENPE Vice-President; Senior Public Prosecutor, Environmental Crime Unit, REMA, Sweden]

A forty-nine-year-old reindeer herder, who was also a judge in the ‘Moosehound’ club, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for a serious hunting offence. It had been proved that he had set scissor traps on a reindeer carcass. Park rangers from the county council discovered snowmobile tracks that deviated from the winter road and then followed tracks made by snowshoes to the traps. In one of the traps, the paw of a wolverine was left behind.

They remained at the scene to await police. The suspect then drove towards them on his snowmobile. He stopped for a moment but then drove towards the rangers. They asked him to stop. He then said he would

just drive up and turn the snowmobiles around. Instead, he drove away from the scene. A minute later, one of the rangers followed him at as high a speed as the circumstances allowed. He spotted the snowmobile outside a garage in a nearby village. When the police arrived, they found the suspect in the garage with a rifle and a damp gun case. In Sweden, it is not allowed to carry firearms on snowmobiles.

During the subsequent crime scene investigation, the traps were taken for examination. On one of the locking pins of one of the traps, DNA was secured that matched the suspect's DNA.

The snowshoes the suspect was wearing when the rangers spoke to him were found a few days later 10 metres from where he was driving the snowmobile. It was not possible to secure tracks from the driving mat of his snowmobile or the tracks from the snowshoes because it had snowed between the placement of the traps and the discovery of the traps. The suspect had applied to shoot wolverines in the area a few months earlier, but the county administrative board had rejected his application. A few days before the discovery of the traps, the suspect had called one of the nature guards to find out where they were making their inspection rounds. As there had been no snow between the discovery and the day the snowshoes were found dumped on the ground, it was established that no one other than the suspect could have dumped the snowshoes as there were no other snowmobile tracks at the site.

Scissor traps are not authorised for use in Sweden. The courts found that their use was a particularly painful hunting method.

He was sentenced in the district court to nine months in prison. The convicted person appealed the sentence but a cross-appeal was filed requesting that he be sentenced to one year in prison.

[For more details please contact shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk]

2) 'Think Pink' waste case

**Prison sentences for several individuals in the so-called Think Pink case
Published 2025-06-17 by Södertörn District Court**

Case: B 554-24

[From Södertörn District Court Press release, shared by Lars Magnusson]

The district court has today issued a verdict in the so-called Think Pink case, which is the largest environmental crime case ever tried in a Swedish court. Five individuals have been convicted of involvement in multiple counts of serious environmental crimes and sentenced to between two and six years in prison. One person has been acquitted of all charges.

Background

The case concerns extremely extensive waste management operations at several locations in Sweden, carried out under the 'Think Pink' group over several years. Prosecutors charged eleven individuals. Six of the accused are considered the main defendants. These individuals held central roles in the operations as follows:

- The Group CEO, who was both the formal representative of the Think Pink group and the person who effectively ran the operations.
- The Production Manager, responsible for waste management at one of the relevant sites.
- The Business Profile, who served as CEO of one of the companies in the Think Pink group for a period.
- The Waste Broker, responsible for, among other things, the disposal of waste.
- The Site Manager, who was in charge of the waste facilities in Södermanland.
- The Environmental Consultant, who worked as a consultant for the Think Pink group.

Criminal Waste Management

According to the district court, the operations within the Think Pink group were characterized by waste being transported between the group's various facilities instead of being legally disposed of.

"Waste management has been significantly deficient or incorrect. It has also caused environmental damage through emissions and, in some cases, posed very serious risks to people and the environment. There is therefore no doubt that environmental crimes occurred at the sites where the waste was handled," said presiding judge Niklas Schüllerqvist.

Five main defendants convicted of serious environmental crimes

The court concluded that five of the main defendants-the Group CEO, Waste Broker, Production Manager, Site Manager, and Environmental Consultant-can be linked to the criminal waste management.

Considering the significant risks involved, the reckless and misleading conduct, and the systematic and organized nature of the crimes, each offense committed by the main defendants is classified as a serious environmental crime or aiding and abetting such crimes.

The five main defendants are sentenced as follows:

The Group CEO is convicted of 19 counts of serious environmental crime and sentenced to 6 years in prison.

The Waste Broker is convicted of 13 counts of serious environmental crime and sentenced to 4 years and 6 months in prison.

The Production Manager is convicted of 12 counts of serious environmental crime and sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in prison.

The Site Manager is convicted of 10 counts of serious environmental crime and sentenced to 3 years in prison.

The Environmental Consultant is convicted of 9 counts of aiding and abetting serious environmental crime and sentenced to 2 years in prison.

An additional five individuals are convicted of environmental crimes of a lesser degree, with two receiving prison sentences and three receiving conditional sentences and fines.

The Business Profile acquitted of all charges

Regarding the Business Profile, the court found that he could be linked to waste management at one of the relevant sites. However, the court determined that this act is statute-barred. The investigation did not reveal any evidence that the Business Profile was involved in other parts of the operations beyond his role as a kind of promoter for the Think Pink group. He is therefore acquitted of all charges.

Business Prohibition

Four of the main defendants convicted of crimes are also issued business prohibitions. The duration of these prohibitions is set at 10 years for the Group CEO and Waste Broker, and 5 years for the Production Manager and Site Manager.

Damages

The five main defendants convicted of crimes are jointly ordered to pay approximately a quarter of a billion Swedish kronor in damages to, among others, Botkyrka Municipality and the City of Västerås. The court's previous decision to freeze their assets (seizure) remains in effect. Additionally, two of the other defendants are jointly ordered to pay damages related to waste management in Laxå

Italian illegal vegetal waste case



[From ANSA (Italy) online publication 29.04.25] - ANCONA, APR 29 2025 - In the Ancona area of Italy, in the Agugliano district, at the same time as searches in various cities of four regions, the carabinieri carried out the **evidentiary and emergency preventive seizure of an illegal waste management plant**, with a size of about 35

thousand square meters where about 60 thousand cubic meters of waste were managed. Seizures and

searches were ordered by the District Anti-Mafia Directorate of Ancona against **six people involved in various capacities in the crime of organized activities for the illegal trafficking of waste consisting of mowing and pruning deriving from the maintenance of public and private green spaces mixed with other types of waste such as plastic, iron, sand, inert materials from demolitions and construction activities, and waste also from the cleaning of the Marche coast.**

Conduct for which the Prosecutor's Office has hypothesized the crime of building an illegal landfill. In action, at the culmination of almost two years of investigations, the soldiers of the **Carabinieri Ecological Operational Unit of Ancona** entered in synergy with the **Noe of Brescia, Bologna, Perugia, Bari, the Carabinieri Provincial Command of Ancona, the Osimo Company** and personnel of the **Marche Regional Environmental Protection Agency.**

Searches are (also) underway in the provinces of Ancona, Rimini, Mantua, Modena, Ravenna and Foggia. In addition to violations in environmental matters, illegalities in the field of construction and landscaping since it is an area subject to constraints, and crimes against the public administration, in particular for fraud in public supplies, fraud against the Public Administration and ideological falsehood committed by the public official which would also have involved employees of local authorities.

According to the prosecution, **a very high number of entrepreneurs in the green maintenance sector were guaranteed the delivery of vegetal and non-vegetal waste, without any control** and at prices much lower than the legal channels; The vegetal waste, then subjected to shredding and chipping, was destined for biomass power plants or the green composted soil improver chain (free of liability), in the absence of authorizations.

According to the reconstruction of the investigators, **the waste destined for the power plants (exempt from liability) and was transported either with incomplete documentation or with false transport notes as they attested to the origin of the wood chips from legal sites**, and this in order to guarantee entry into them by giving a semblance of compliance with current legislation; The area had also been used for the storage of about 5 thousand tons of waste from the cleaning activities of the Marche coasts, consisting of wood, plastic and other material of anthropogenic origin, in addition to the sand taken from the coastal strip of origin, without carrying out a preliminary separation and screening operation, and thus saving on the transfer to landfills or authorized sites.

From the investigations carried out to date, it has emerged that **the companies involved have received the amounts provided for in the contract, without there being, according to the prosecution, on the part of the entrusted bodies, the verification of the correct execution of the service**, and thus contributing to the realization of the fraud against the Public Administration. The suspects would have obtained advantages from the income received under the table from the illegal collection of waste of various kinds and species, and from the delivery of the waste itself processed at power plants. The measure executed, the investigators recalls, "is a precautionary measure ordered during preliminary investigations, against which appeals are allowed, and the recipients of the same are people subject to the investigations

and therefore presumed innocent until a final sentence". [translation of the original articles from ANSA (It) online] (ANSA).

Contact

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Co-funded by the
European Union