



European Union Network for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

IMPEL

Import restriction China

Name: Marina de Gier/Allison Townley

(Thanks Huib van Westen)

Asian Network Meeting

6-8 November 2018 Akita, Japan

Outline

- EU legislative framework
- Waste destinations
- Consequences import ban China
- International Cooperation
- Future Developments



EU Legislation concerning waste exports



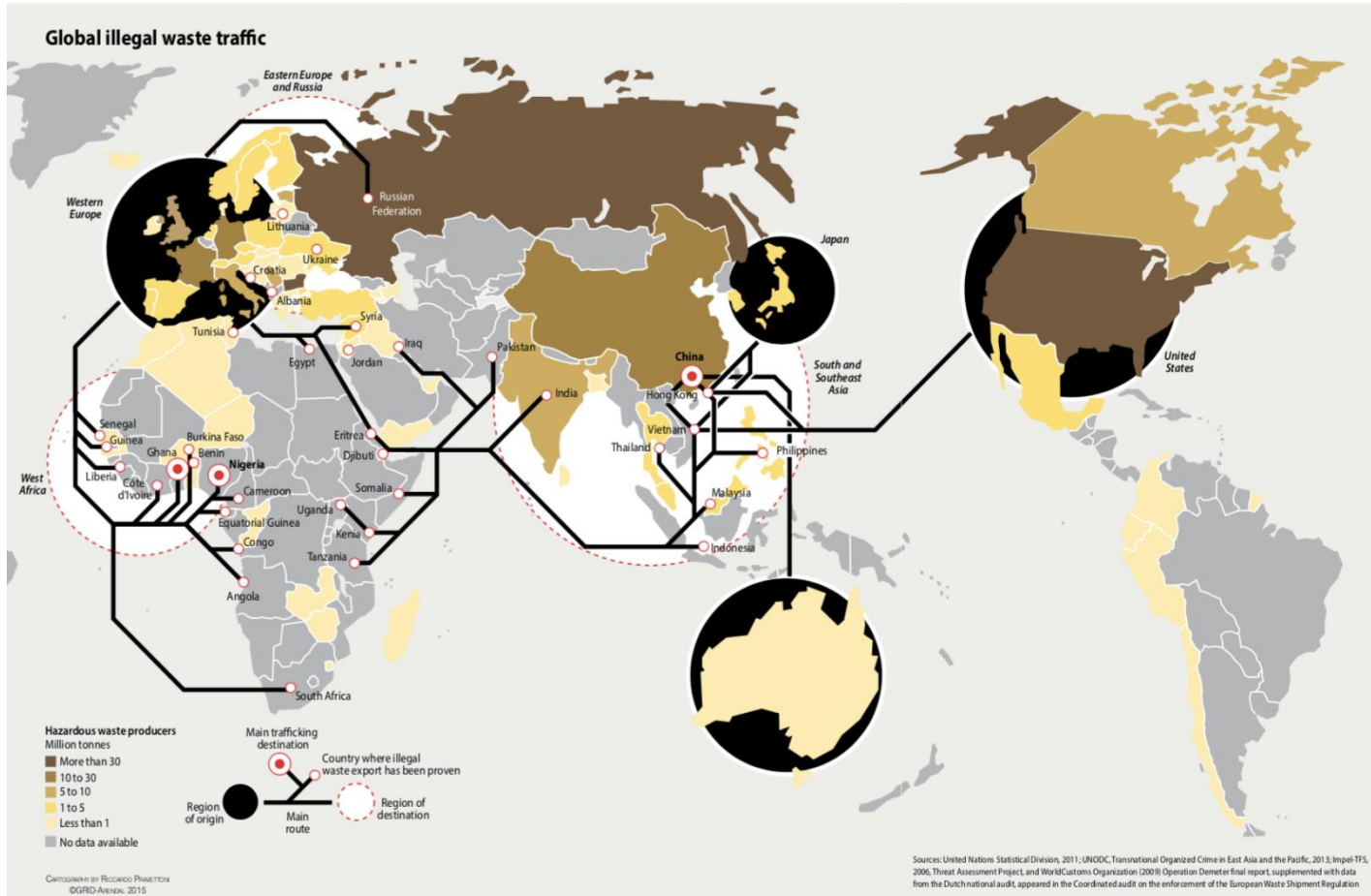
- Basel Convention integrated in the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR 1013/2006)
- Different procedures for waste shipments which are shipped for disposal or for recycling
- Different procedures for hazardous and non-hazardous waste



EU Legislation concerning waste exports (2)

- **Export ban for waste shipped for disposal, for hazardous waste and for household waste to non- OECD countries**
- **For non hazardous waste the EU sent out a request to non- OECD countries**
- **Answers (or not): exportban, written prior consent, no restrictions**

Waste destinations





Illegal transports to Asia discovered in EU

- **General**

- Contaminated waste
- (Hidden) hazardous waste

- **False end destination**

- Destination changed during shipment (OECD- non OECD) or waste
- Recycling facility in office building
- Destination not licensed, does not exist, is not operational

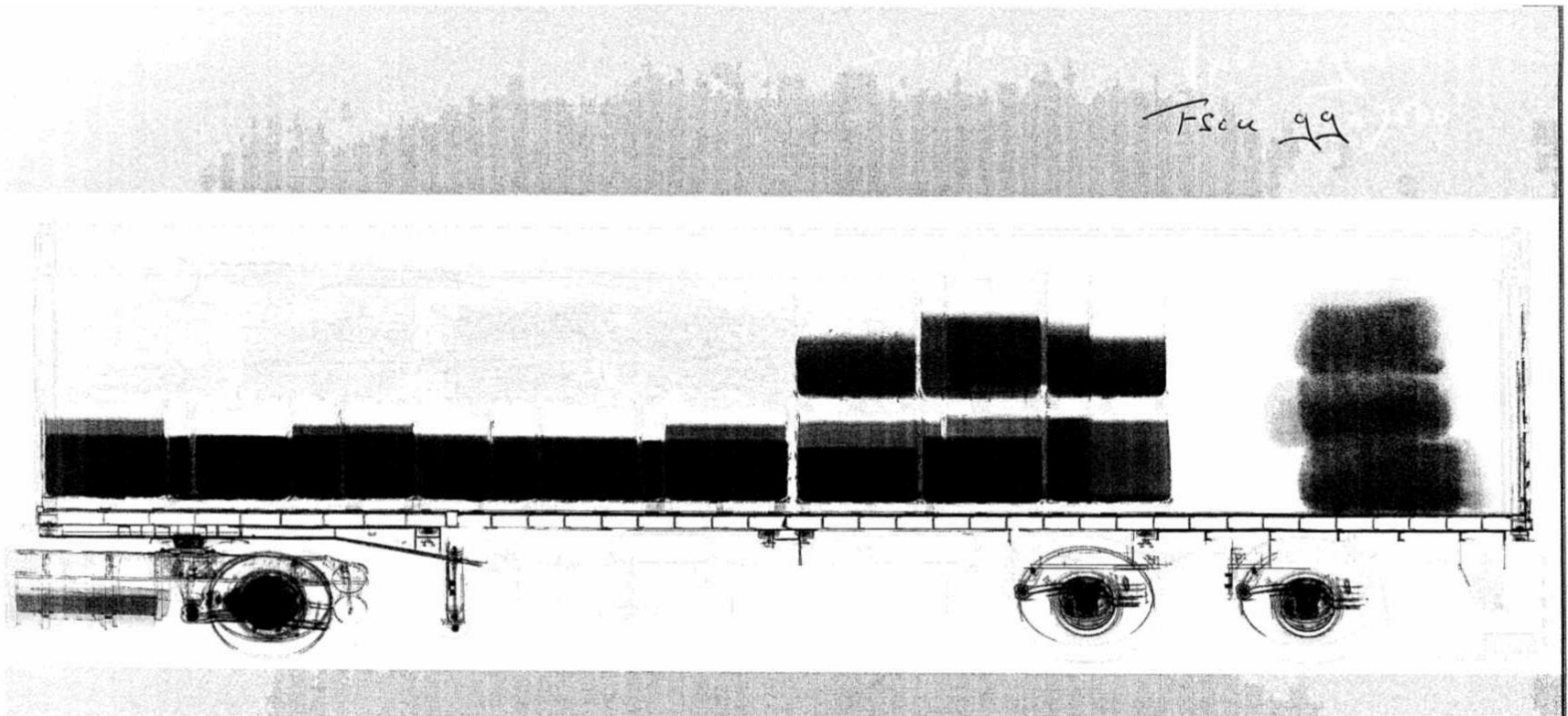
Declared waste paper



Declared as plastic waste



(Hidden) hazardous waste





Doubtful destinations

CHEONG FAT PLASTIC CO.,
RM 2009, ON YAN HOUSE, TSZ ON
KOWLOON, HONG KONG
HONG KONG

INVOICE

INVOICENUMBER: 27- [redacted] [redacted] jan-07

WE HAVE DELIVERED YOU THE FOLLOWING:

DESCRIPTION OF THE GOODS:
PVC MIX COLOUR

CONTAINER NO.	COLLI	GROSSWEIGHT	NETTWEIGHT
XU 519217-9	25	24,439 KG	22,439 KG
CU 670649-9	37	22,860 KG	22,860 KG
CU 261822-1	48	19,020 KG	19,000 KG
MU 915717-4	20	6,680 KG	6,680 KG
HU 844068-3	52	26,080 KG	26,080 KG

GROSSWEIGHT 99,079 KG
NETTWEIGHT 97,059 KGS AT 200,00 USD/PMT USD 19411,80

TOTAL INVOICE AMOUNT : USD 19411,80

PACKING: EXPORT STANDERED.

SHIPMENT FROM : E.E.C. PORT
VESSEL : CC NORMA DTD -2007
DELIVERY : C AND F HONG KONG
HS. CODE : 3915-3000

Recycling facilities???



China's stricter policy on waste



Which recent changes did we see?

- In 2016 China imported 56% of the global solid waste. (7.3 million tons)
- Since 2013 China started several Initiatives and Operations specifically on waste imports and waste treatment:
- Demeter III and Demeter IV, Green Fence, National Sword and Operation Blue Sky
- Since January 2018 a stricter policy on 24 Solid waste streams

Consequences

- Chinese businessmen are investing in facilities abroad
- More pollution created by these activities in other Asian countries
- Thousands of abandoned containers in Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia
- Stricter control and policy in other countries such as Hong-Kong, India, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam
- The international waste shipment 'landscape' has rapidly changed and is still changing...

What we see in the field..... in Europe

- Not enough recycle facilities in Europe
- A lot of waste being stored (legal and illegal)
- Lots of fires at (illegal) waste sites (Poland)
- More incineration and landfilling
- Recycling targets are not met



Abandoned imports pile up at City ports

Update: May, 30/2018 - 09:00



Cát Lái Port in HCM City's District 2. — VNA/VNS Photo Thế Anh

Viet Nam News HCM CITY — Following China's ban on import of plastic wastes, a lot of them are coming instead to Việt Nam, but with consignees failing to claim shipments, the wastes are piling up at ports including in HCM City.

Thailand closes ports to plastic and electronic waste

04.07.2018 – The government of Thailand is banning the imports of e-scrap and plastic waste. According to the National News Bureau of Thailand, the country's Department of Industrial Works (DIW) forbade imports of electronic and plastic waste last week, effective immediately.

Earlier in the month, the government-owned news service reported that the Customs Department would also be ramping up inspections of shipping containers in the wake of numerous incidents of hazardous waste smuggling. As a result of the intensified inspections, customs officers would be x-ray screening all containers rather than relying on random



*No longer safe harbour for plastic or electronic waste:
the Port of Bangkok*



MALAYSIA AND VIETNAM FOLLOW CHINA'S LEAD WITH WASTE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

By [Rob Cole](#) | 6 August 2018 | [Add a Comment](#)

PRINT E-MAIL SHARE

Both Vietnam and Malaysia have introduced import restrictions in response to the increased volumes of waste entering the countries in the months since China's ban on 24 grades of solid waste – casting further doubt on the ability of other South-East Asian economies to absorb China's lost capacity.

Last week, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc announced that the country would not be issuing any new import licenses. Vietnam is set to follow up its new restrictions with a crackdown on smuggled waste as more than 6,000 containers of paper, plastic and metal scrap remain in limbo at Vietnamese customs points awaiting processing, according to reporting by *Reuters*.



Send your plastic waste elsewhere



Wednesday, October 17th, 2018 at , [News](#)

By P PREM KUMAR & ALIFAH ZAINUDDIN / Pic By MUHD AMIN NAHARUL

Malaysia will ban the imports of non-recyclable plastic as the government seeks to stop the country from being the dumping ground of environmentally damaging material originating from developed nations. Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) Minister Yeo Bee Yin (*picture*) said i
mports of HS Code 3915 plastic waste has been banned, while the issuance of licences to set up plastic waste recycling factories in Malaysia has also been suspended.

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

jmr/ls © 23.07.2018, 08:36

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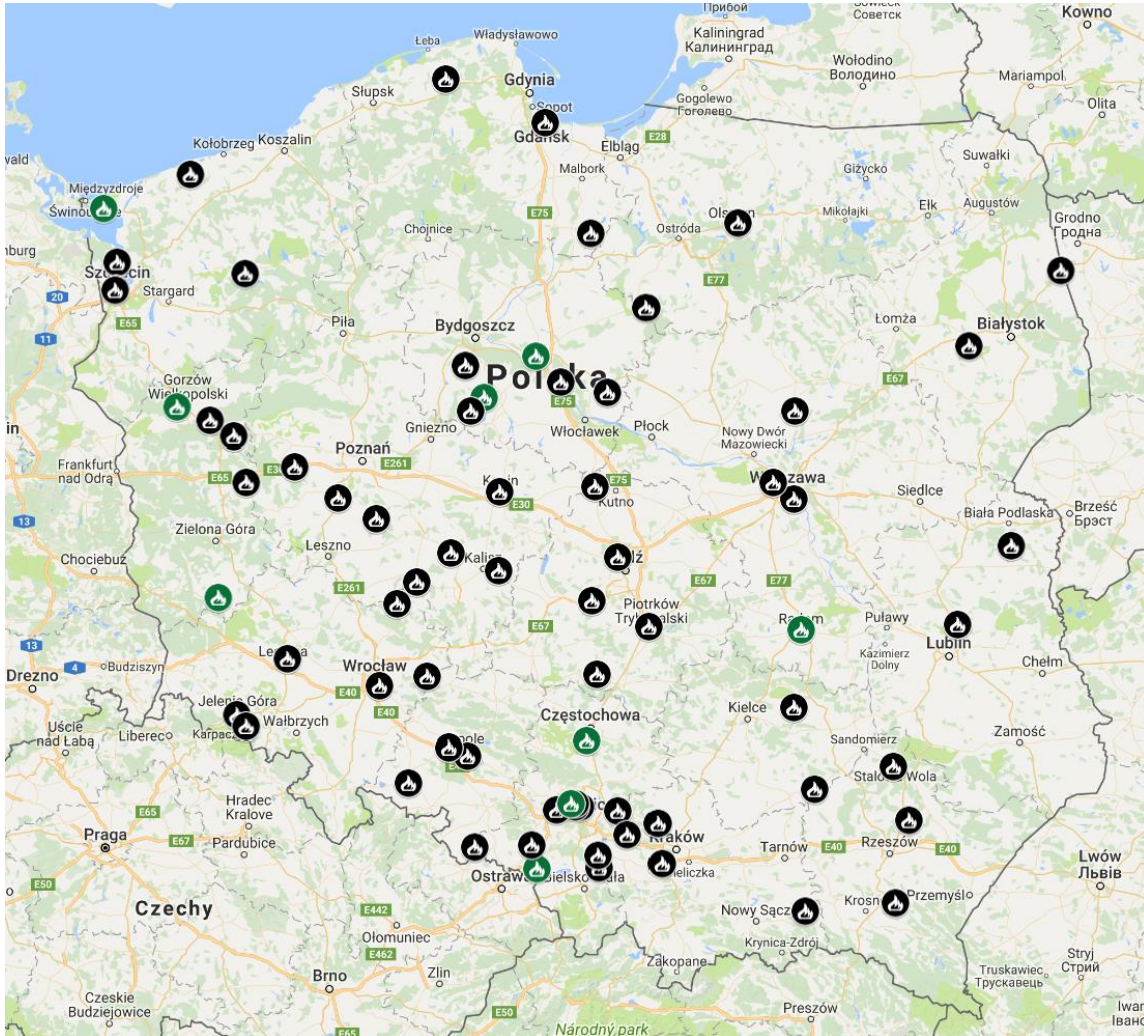
■ The landfill fire in Zgierz was one of the major incidents which prompted the government and the press to investigate into the activities of the 'trash mafia'. Photo: PAP/Grzegorz Michałowski

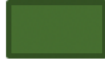
LATEST NEWS


- Smile of fortune: ensnared bison heifer freed
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- 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

According to The Telegraph, one of the UK's top broadsheet





 Fires on landfills
(15 %)

 Waste fires in
collection sites /
waste management
facilities / places of
illegal storage of
waste **(85 %)**

UK plastics recycling industry under investigation for fraud and corruption

Exclusive: Watchdog examining claims plastic waste is not being recycled but left to leak into rivers and oceans



▲ Household waste imported from Britain that was improperly labeled as recyclable plastic, in Santos, Brazil.
Photograph: Mauricio Lima/AFP/Getty Images

The plastics recycling industry is facing an investigation into suspected widespread abuse and fraud within the export system amid warnings the world is about to close the door on UK packaging waste, the Guardian has learned.

The **Environment Agency** (EA) has set up a team of investigators, including three retired police officers, in an attempt to deal with complaints that organised criminals and firms are abusing the system.

China's Waste Ban Is Causing A Trash Crisis In The U.S. (HBO)

VICE News Tonight | HBO



CHINA'S WASTE BAN IS CAUSING A TRASH CRISIS IN THE U.S. (HBO)

These changes also offers opportunities

- To improve the quality of collected waste
- To improve the quality of waste which is being exported
- THE opportunity to invest in recycling facilities in 'source countries' and giving a boost to the circular economy
- Start with new technologies like chemical recycling (turning plastic into fuel)
- Change of behavior.....

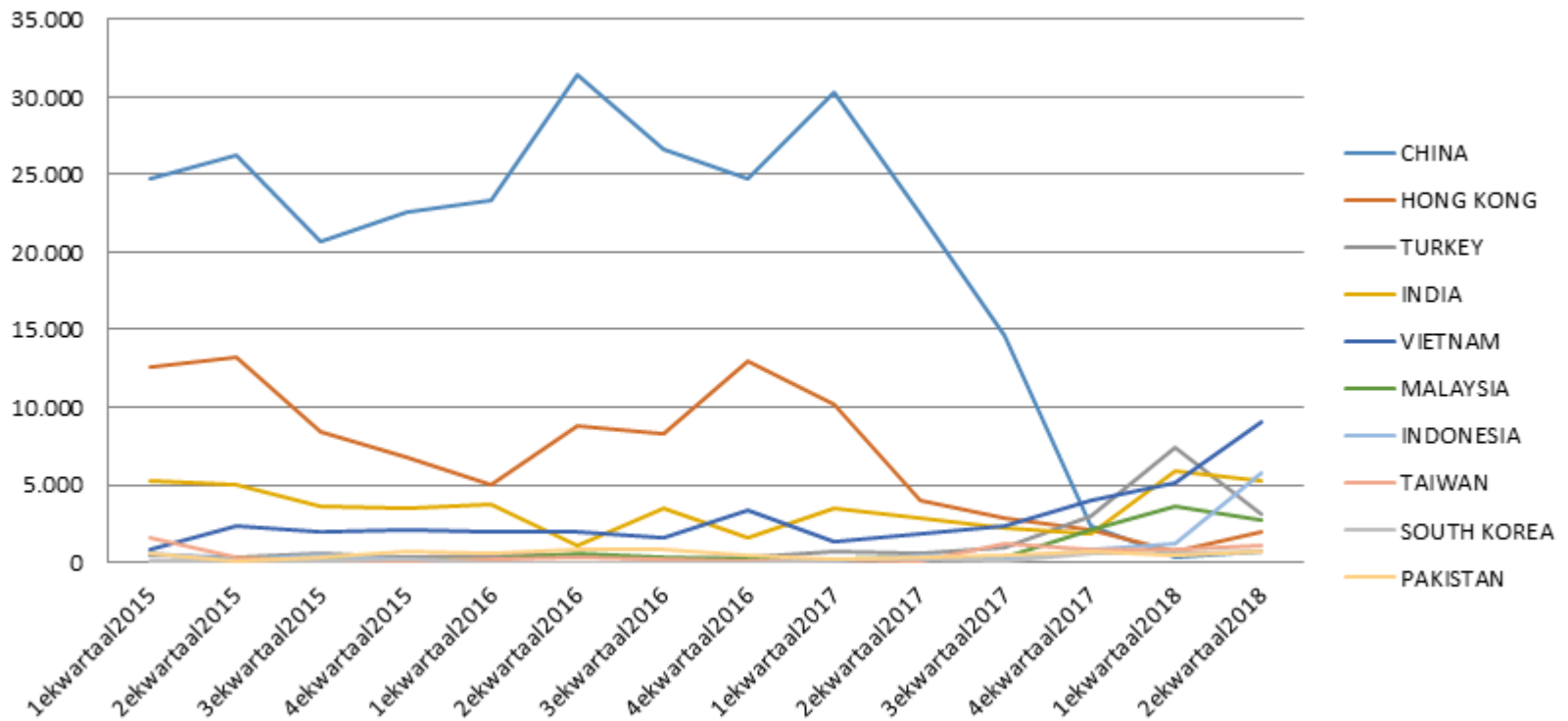
Statistics:

Dutch export figures plastic waste 2015-2018

PARTNER/PERIOD	1ekwartaal2018	4ekwartaal2017	3ekwartaal2017	2ekwartaal2017	1ekwartaal2017
CHINA	373	2.401	14.599	22.452	30.350
HONG KONG	702	2.062	2.808	4.042	10.151
TURKEY	7.440	2.994	991	528	645
INDIA	5.905	1.805	2.280	2.805	3.440
VIETNAM	5.139	3.942	2.407	1.816	1.289
MALAYSIA	3.586	2.060	356	307	242
INDONESIA	1.171	803	189	396	14
CYPRUS	1.167	34	35	32	36
POLAND	981	1.615	1.324	1.568	1.235
TAIWAN	810	806	1.187	61	231
PAKISTAN	455	663	456	291	159
UNITED STATES	270	10	125	51	402
ROMANIA	231	327	827	854	369
BULGARIA	177	149	114	85	60
HUNGARY	152	138	140	120	93
TH - THAILAND	54	289	0	0	0

Main export countries

Top 10 niet Europese landen



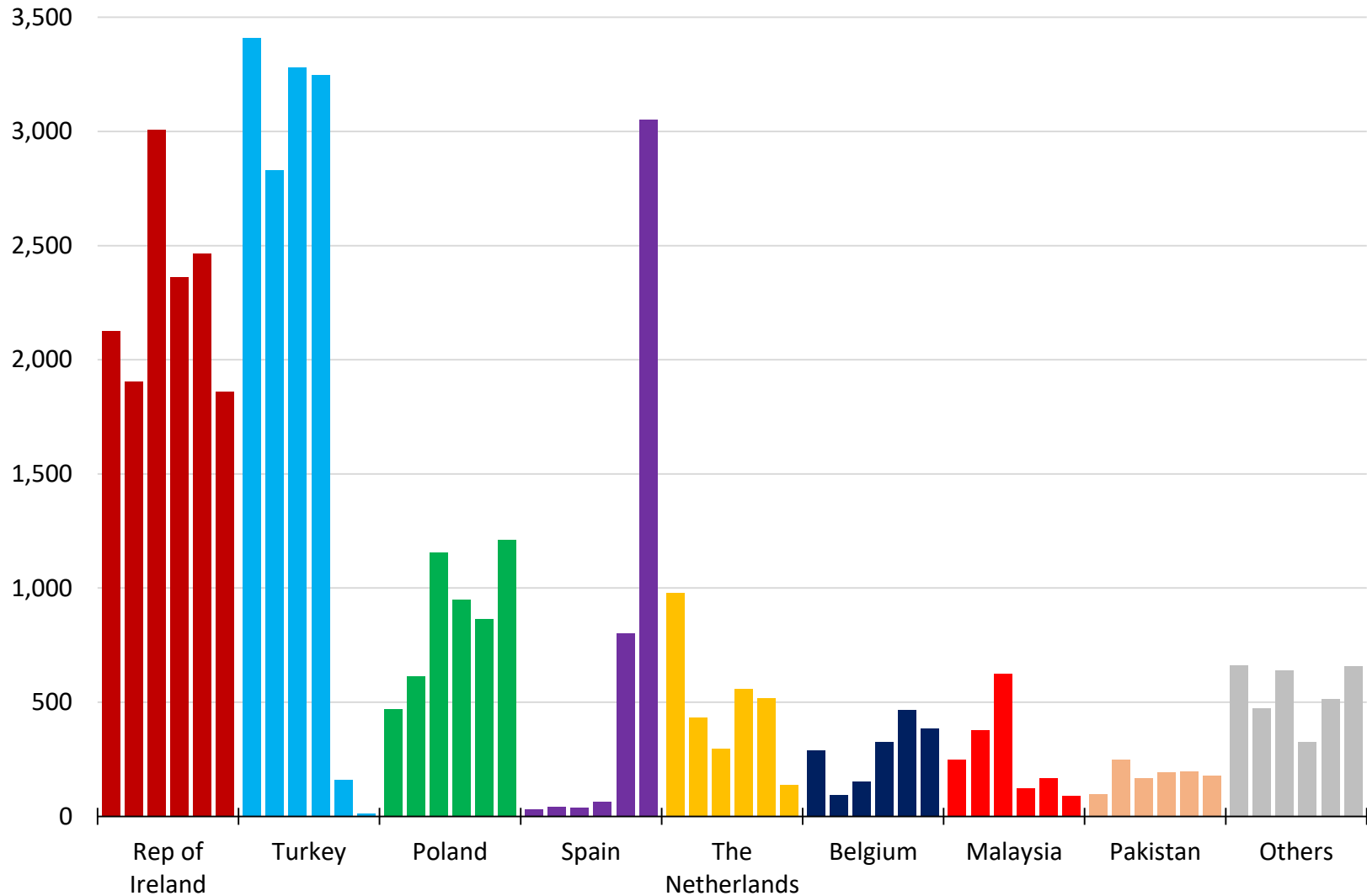


Northern Ireland export figures 2016-2018 plastic waste

Country	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Belgium	288	95	154	327	466	385
China	283	148		23	71	
France						228
Germany	167	142	82	25	252	308
India	58	59	22			
Indonesia	156					
Italy				18		
Latvia		22				
Lithuania				17	89	
Malaysia	248	379	625	124	166	89
Pakistan	98	248	166	193	196	179
Poland	471	614	1,155	950	865	1,213
Portugal			24			
Rep of Ireland	2,127	1,903	3,007	2,361	2,467	1,861
South Korea		47				
Spain	32	42	39	65	803	3,052
Taiwan				129		124
Thailand			274			
The Netherlands	978	431	297	560	518	139
Turkey	3,410	2,830	3,283	3,246	162	13
Vietnam		54	236	115	101	



Main Export Countries



Quarterly Plastic Exports Apr 17 - Sep 18



International cooperation

Could we find a route to getting details of legal facilities for plastic from your country on a list and details of those to contact to annually review?



European Union Network for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Thank you!

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