Human Environment and Transport
Inspectorate
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Plastic waste export ban: the consequences for recycling in the EU and pollution abroad

Exploratory study into the response of the waste market to more stringent European export rules



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Colophon

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Summary

More and more plastic is being produced. As a result, increasing amounts of plastic waste are being generated, including in the Netherlands. The European Union (EU) would like to see as much European plastic waste as possible recycled within Europe. Amending the export rules for plastic waste is intended to stimulate this.

This report contains the details of the Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport (ILT)[1]'s study into the effect of stricter export rules on the processing of plastic waste outside the EU. The study involved investigating how the market may respond to an export ban to countries which are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The impact of the ban on the export of plastic waste to Türkiye was also investigated, given that it is an OECD country which is probably going to be receiving more plastic waste.

The study is intended to help the ILT anticipate behavioural changes of waste brokers and exporters, in response to this new legislation. The ILT will take enforcement action if that behaviour violates the more stringent legislation and is therefore harmful to people and the environment.

When exporting to countries outside Europe, there is a risk that plastic waste is processed in an improper manner. Research conducted by National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in 2026 on behalf of the ILT indicates that the export of plastic waste may have adverse environmental and health impacts. The research found that hazardous substances can be released when plastic waste is burned in the open. Local residents and farmers may be exposed to microplastics and to substances in the air, (drinking) water, and crops.

The EU's preferred scenario is therefore recycling within Europe. The situation is poor for Dutch companies that recycle plastic waste. Due to the import of cheap recycled material from outside the EU, the sector is likely to be put at risk further. Dutch recyclers must demonstrate that Dutch recyclate complies with EU chemicals legislation. Imported recyclate is not yet subject to such checks in the Netherlands. There are also indications that the used plastic cannot always be classed as real recyclate. This potentially creates a situation of unfair competition due to new products potentially being sold as recycled materials. The ILT wants to promote a level playing field by checking recyclate imported into the EU against European requirements.

The ILT notes that much still needs to be done to stimulate the recycling of plastic within Europe. The stricter European Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) is unlikely to result in more plastic waste being processed within the Netherlands or Europe. The ILT is also unable to obtain a complete overview of processing outside Europe. To encourage recycling within Europe, the ILT identifies the following points of leverage:

- Check imported recyclate.
- Apply stricter permitting, targeted compliance monitoring, and enforcement across the different outlined market response scenarios.
- Register the plastic waste stream

[1] The Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate

Research question and document structure

The Netherlands plays an important role in the trade in plastic waste. The Netherlands is both one of the largest importers and exporters of plastic waste in Europe.

As of November 2026, an EU-wide ban will come into force on the export of plastic waste to countries that are not members of the OECD. This ban will apply for at least 2.5 years. The main research question in this study is:

What are possible consequences of the plastic waste export ban for the Netherlands and recipient countries?

The study examines and describes several possible ways in which the market may respond to the export ban.

Overview of the document
This study contains a brief introduction and an overview of the plastic waste sector. It then examines the plastic waste streams, market reaction scenarios, potential damage and the possible consequences of the upcoming export ban. The report also highlights ways in which recycling can be encouraged within Europe and supervision reinforced.

1. Introduction

The ILT aims to reduce the societal harm caused by plastic waste. Plastic waste, and the processing of it, can be harmful to people and the environment. Increasing amounts of plastic are being produced, resulting in growing quantities of plastic waste. The Netherlands is also a major trader in plastic waste and is among the largest importers and exporters of plastic waste in Europe.

A proportion of Dutch exports is destined for countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The trade and processing of plastic waste are also high on the international agenda. An EU-wide ban on the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries will come into force in November 2026. This ban will apply for a minimum of 2.5 years, putting an end to the trade in plastic waste to those countries. The ILT wants to better understand the implications of this ban, given the EU's objective for as much European plastic waste as possible to be processed in Europe.

In 2024 and 2025, the ILT examined the supply chain associated with the Dutch export of plastic waste. Reports, data analyses, seminars, company visits, and background discussions with experts both within the Netherlands and internationally contributed to the preparation of this report. Through this research, the ILT aims to anticipate the forthcoming export ban and to be prepared for changes in the behaviour of waste traders and exporters. The ILT will take enforcement action where such behaviour contravenes the more stringent legislation and is therefore harmful to people and the environment.

2. Where does Dutch plastic waste go?

Plastic production is experiencing a sharp increase. The population is growing, people are getting richer on average and they are buying more and more plastic items. Most plastic is made from crude oil. The majority of this plastic is made in China and other Asian countries. Only 12% of virgin plastic came from Europe in 2024.

Not only is more plastic being produced, more is also being discarded. According to the OECD, the amount of plastic waste worldwide increased from 156 million tonnes in 2000 to 353 million tonnes in 2019. Of the plastic waste generated worldwide, only 9% is recycled. The rest is incinerated, sent to landfill or ends up in the wrong place.

The question of exactly how much plastic is used in the Netherlands and ultimately becomes waste is difficult to answer. The attention of policymakers, industry and regulators appears to be focused mainly on the life cycle of packaging and other single-use plastics. This 30% of the plastic waste stream is carefully recorded and reported. For the remaining 70% of discarded Dutch plastic, this is not the case.

2.1 More recyclate

The EU wants as much European plastic waste as possible to be processed within Europe. The Netherlands also supports this objective. In addition to the export ban, as part of the package of measures, from 2030 a minimum of 30% of packaging must consist of recycled material in accordance with European regulations. This could lead to fraud in which virgin plastic is sold as recycled plastic. Visually, recycled plastic cannot always be distinguished from virgin plastic. At present, virgin plastic is cheaper than recycled plastic. This could lead to virgin plastic to be marketed and sold as recycled plastic.

2.2 Less recycling in the Netherlands

The capacity to process plastic waste in the Netherlands has decreased in recent years. The situation for Dutch recycling companies is poor. In 2024 and 2025, several companies went bankrupt. Some companies also left the Netherlands. As a result, a quarter of the Dutch companies capable of processing plastic disappeared.



Figure 1: Plastic that is sent abroad for recycling. Photo: ILT.

Conversations with companies in the Netherlands have revealed that the recycling sector in the EU is under pressure. Recycling costs are higher in Europe. This is because labour and energy are cheaper outside Europe. As a result, plastic processed abroad (recyclate) is cheaper than plastic recycled in the Netherlands.

The war in Ukraine is another reason for the abundance of cheap foreign virgin plastic on the European market. This is because Chinese producers use cheap Russian oil as their raw material. Indeed, the price of virgin plastic in 2024 was even lower than that of recyclate in the EU.

2.3 Plastic waste export

Dutch plastic waste often ends up being shipped abroad. But that's not all: the Netherlands also serves as a transit country for plastic waste, according to a 2022 study. Although a proportion of the plastic waste remains within the EU, another portion is sent to countries outside the EU. This is often plastic waste that is relatively easy to recycle. Half of the European plastic that is collected for recycling is exported to be processed in countries outside the EU, as documented by the European Parliament.

The Stricter Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) 2024/1157 Rules

Exporting plastic waste, including clean, non-hazardous waste (which is destined for recycling) (B3011), will be subject to the 'prior notification and consent procedure'. This requirement applies from 21 May 2026 to OECD and non-OECD countries.

Under the Regulation, exports of plastic waste from the EU to non-OECD countries will be banned from **21 November 2026**.

Exporters of plastic waste, similarly as in the case of other waste, must demonstrate that the waste exported is properly managed in the facility located in the recipient country to which it is shipped. Therefore, they must ensure that independent audits are carried out on such facilities to demonstrate that these facilities manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. This requirement will apply from 21 May 2027.

Waste cannot simply be exported without restrictions. From 21 May 2027, stricter WSR rules will come into force for the export of all waste from the EU. Under these rules, all EU companies exporting waste outside the EU must ensure that the processing facilities receiving their waste have undergone an independent audit. This audit must demonstrate that the facilities process the waste in an environmentally responsible manner. This must be undertaken by an independent auditor who is officially registered with the EU.

The OECD is an alliance of 38 countries. Additional measures will be put in place for waste sent to non-OECD member countries to prevent environmental and public health issues. The export of waste to non-OECD countries will only be permitted if those countries notify the European Commission that they are willing to import the waste. They will also have to demonstrate that they manage both their own waste and imported waste in an environmentally sound manner. The European Commission will assess the information submitted and maintain a list of approved destination countries. As part of this process, a list of licensed waste-processing facilities in those countries must also be available.

2.4 Scenarios relating to the consequences of the export ban

These scenarios describe the ways in which the market might react to an export ban to countries which are not members of the OECD.

The scenarios examined were:

1. **Processing within the EU**

This scenario is the European Commission’s preferred scenario.

At present, there is insufficient capacity within the EU to recycle all of its own plastic waste. It is also uncertain whether recycling within the EU would be profitable enough to make this scenario attractive to Dutch exporters.

2. **Transit Arrangements**

Exporters use OECD countries that are not part of the EU, such as Türkiye and the United Kingdom, as transit points to continue exporting plastic waste to non-OECD countries after the stricter Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) enters into force.

When an international shipment is initiated, the final recovery or treatment destination must be declared in the notification. If this is not done, or if the actual final destination is different, the WSR is breached.

3. More OECD (non-EU) final destinations

Exporters seek additional destinations outside the EU but within the OECD, such as Türkiye. When an international shipment is initiated, the final recovery or treatment destination must be declared in the notification. The same principle applies here: if this is not done, or if the final destination is actually different, the WSR is breached.

4. Export via another EU country

Exporters look for countries within the EU where supervision is less intense or strict. It may be that plastic waste is not treated there according to the rules, or is shipped from there to countries that are not OECD members, for example as product. Shipments of plastic waste within the EU require the Green List procedure (Annex VII). If this doesn't happen, the WSR is breached.

5. **Export with non-waste code**

Exporters give plastic waste a non-waste code (Harmonized System), such as 'product' or 'fuel', in order to ship it to countries that are not OECD members. This is not permitted unless the material meets the end-of-waste criteria. Under the more stringent WSR, it must also be demonstrated whether the material should be classified as waste or not. Failure to do so is a breach of the WSR.

6. Incineration of plastic waste

Plastic waste that no longer can be exported disappears into incinerators. This development is relevant for the Netherlands because the current economic and technical constraints make it unlikely that a European export ban will automatically lead to more domestic recycling. The low prices for virgin plastics and shrinking margins for recyclers are more likely to lead to a contraction rather than an expansion of European recycling capacity. Without targeted investment in recycling capacity and technology, there is a real risk that more plastic waste will end up in incinerators in Europe as well. This is a scenario that runs counter to the objectives of the circular economy.

3. Possible Consequences of Exporting Plastic Waste to Receiving Countries

How serious is it that Dutch plastic is sent abroad? Is it dumped there, or does it displace locally generated plastic on the recycling market?

3.1 Environmental and health impacts as a consequence of exporting plastic waste

In 2026, the RIVM carried out a study on behalf of the ILT into the environmental and health effects of plastic waste exports. The study found that:

Open burning can release harmful substances. People living nearby, farmers, and residents can be exposed to substances in the air and deposited from the air, substances in (drinking) water, substances in crops and microplastics.

(Un)regulated dumping can affect people living near dump sites through exposure to substances in the air and deposited from the air, substances in (drinking) water, substances in soil and crops, and microplastics.

3.2 Wrongdoings in the Receiving Countries

Wrongdoing in the waste sector usually concerns waste that no longer has any value. The owner wants to get rid of it but must pay for its treatment or disposal. By exporting it illegally, the owner avoids those costs and gets rid of the waste.

The 2024 Environmental Crime Threat Assessment (*Dreigingsbeeld milieucriminaliteit* 2024, in Dutch) shows that plastic waste with no economic value can disappear from sight. On paper, strict requirements apply to recyclers processing Dutch plastic waste. However, once a shipment leaves the Netherlands, it becomes difficult to trace what happens to the residual fraction generated from the processed plastic waste. This is because the ILT does not have legal jurisdiction outside the Netherlands.
If problems with Dutch plastic waste are discovered in a receiving country, the ILT may receive a request from the local authorities to take the waste back. The number of containers returned in recent years has been limited. It should be noted, however, that it is often difficult for receiving countries to identify the exporter of illegally imported plastic waste. Because the trade is illegal, shipments are generally not accompanied by documentation. As a result, some cases may remain under the radar. 3 of the 10 largest recipients of plastic waste from the Netherlands in Türkiye are located in the Adana province. Plastic waste may be shipped to these facilities because they process the material in accordance with Dutch regulatory requirements. However, there are also plenty of recyclers located in Adana that do not. As a result, the region experiences significant pollution from plastic waste and plastic residues.

Greenpeace UK collected samples of illegally dumped plastic waste (believed to have been imported) and of the underlying soil in and around Adana. These samples were analysed for chemical contaminants associated with plastics and their burning, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, and metals. The results were compared with samples taken at control sites where no dumping had occurred. At the most heavily contaminated location, extremely elevated concentrations of hazardous substances were found. These substances can, for example, migrate from the soil into surface waters and drinking water sources, among other pathways.

3.3 Consequences of increased exports to non-EU OECD countries

One possible consequence of the export ban is that plastic waste exports to Türkiye in particular will increase. Türkiye is already a major recipient of Dutch plastic waste. The ILT investigated the effects of exporting plastic waste to a non-EU OECD country such as Türkiye.

Türkiye states that it is taking measures to prevent pollution caused by imported waste. The report Synopsis: Plastics in Türkiye describes the national plans in place to move towards a circular economy. It paints a picture of significant efforts in recent years to improve the conditions under which plastic waste is recycled and to tighten regulations. For example, imported plastic waste is tracked by Turkish customs from the point of entry to the recycling facility through a mobile transport tracking system designed to prevent illegal dumping.

The Turkish Ministry of Trade also emphasises that it aims to prevent negative impacts on local waste collection. Therefore, no more than 50% of a recycler's processing capacity may be used for imported waste, and a bank guarantee is required. These measures are intended to ensure compliance with the law. The import of mixed plastics is also prohibited, shipments are inspected, and only approved recyclers are allowed to import plastic waste. What the actual circumstances are is difficult to determine. Recently, an article appeared in *The Guardian*[2] claiming that Türkiye is still Europe's dumping ground for waste. In a press release, the Turkish government stated that these claims are incorrect. It says that only clean, recyclable plastic enters the country (less than 1% contamination) and that 30,000 inspections of recycling facilities were carried out between 2021 and 2025. These inspections resulted in fines totalling 913 million Turkish lira (about €21 million) and the suspension of 227 companies. The Turkish government has not disclosed the specific violations involved. These figures cannot be verified and the reports are not publicly available. The Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change provided written input to the ILT, but was not available for an interview to answer specific questions. Audits by an independent party, as required by the more stringent EWSR, could provide more insight.



Figure 2: Photos taken in Adana, Türkiye, February 2025. Photos: local organisation.

[2] 2025, 18 February. Turkey said it would become a 'zero waste' nation. Instead, it became a dumping ground for Europe's rubbish.

The question is whether the country will be able to process the potentially larger influx of plastic waste in the correct way. A representative of the plastic recycling sector states that additional efforts are being made to increase recycling capacity, improve education, enhance infrastructure, and recruit more personnel. Others believe that there are not enough companies within the mechanical recycling sector that meet EU standards to handle the additional influx. In addition, NGOs are concerned about the illegal dumping and the burning of plastic waste, which according to the RIVM report, has harmful consequences for people and the environment.

Consequences of exports to Indonesia

In addition to exports to Türkiye, the ILT researched exports to Indonesia. This is because an increasing amount of plastic waste from the Netherlands has been shipped to that country in recent years. In fact, in 2023, 2024, and 2025, it was the largest recipient of exported Dutch plastic waste.

Under the strengthened WSR, plastic waste can no longer be exported to countries outside the OECD, of which Indonesia is one. However, there are indications that Indonesian recyclers are keen to continue receiving high-quality plastic waste from the EU. This increases the likelihood that attempts will be made to continue shipping plastic waste to Indonesia despite the restrictions. One possible method is to export the material as a product rather than classifying it as waste.

4. Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement in the different scenarios

The ILT is responsible for the permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement of plastic waste exports. How is the ILT anticipating potential market responses to the forthcoming changes to the WSR?

4.1 Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement of plastic recycling in Europe

The EU's preferred scenario is for European plastic waste to be processed within the EU. It is uncertain whether this is achievable.

According to the industry association Plastics Recyclers Europe (PRE) industry association, the European plastics recycling sector is struggling. The industry is facing its biggest ever decline in capacity. A number of recyclers in the Netherlands have gone bankrupt over a short period of time, hampering the country's recycling operations.

Given the price differential between recyclers inside and outside the EU, the Dutch recycling sector expects that recycling within the EU will not be an attractive option for many companies. At least, this is likely to remain the case unless prices for recycled plastics increase in the Netherlands and energy costs in Europe decrease. For the foreseeable future, it appears unlikely that all plastic waste generated in Europe can be recycled within Europe.

The ILT will organise its supervision of exports in such a way that there is greater oversight of prohibited exports to non-OECD countries. It is going to organise the compliance monitoring of exports in a way that provides more insight into prohibited exports to non-OECD countries. There will also be more monitoring of notifications for exports to OECD countries.

The permitting authorities are developing a new assessment framework that will be used when assessing notifications for exports to OECD countries outside the EU. Under the new regulations, exporters are required to find out how the residual waste from the processed plastic waste will be managed further down the treatment chain. Checks will also be carried out to ensure that imported recyclate from outside the EU meets the same standards as recyclate produced within the EU.

4.2 Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement of transit arrangements

It is possible that exporters of plastic waste will use non-EU OECD countries, such as the United Kingdom, as a transit point. After a stopover in such a country, the waste may still be transported to a country that is not allowed to receive it.

To prevent this, the ILT is adapting its permitting process so that the declared final destination in the notification is subject to further verification. In addition, the ILT's supervisory activities are being organised to increase cooperation with foreign authorities in these transit countries.

Within **IMPEL**, the EU network dedicated to the effective implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation, additional action will also be taken to combat and prevent these transit arrangements.

4.3 Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement in relation to OECD final destinations (non-EU)

The fact that, from 21 November 2026, no exports of plastic waste to non-OECD member countries may take place, actually makes other countries more attractive as destinations.
Exporters are seeking additional end destinations outside the EU that are OECD members. Export figures show that Türkiye is the largest non-EU OECD importer of Dutch plastic waste.

One of the countries that may still receive plastic waste is Türkiye. Discussions with Turkish stakeholders indicate that exports to Türkiye are indeed expected to increase as a result of the revised and stricter WSR. However, all shipments of plastic waste to non-EU countries must be accompanied by a notification and consent from the ILT.

The ILT sees this as the scenario with the highest risk of environmental damage. Therefore, in its role as the competent permitting authority for exports to non-EU OECD countries, the ILT will assess each notification to verify that the shipment and treatment of plastic waste comply with European and Dutch treatment standards. This assessment includes reviewing how residual waste generated during the treatment process is managed. According to the more stringent WSR, residual waste must be processed in the processing country in the same manner as it would be in the country of origin. That means it may not be sent to landfill or burned in the open air.

4.4 Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement in relation to exports via another EU country

To prevent Dutch exporters from diverting shipments through other EU Member States in order to circumvent or violate the requirements of the WSR, the ILT will further strengthen its cooperation with other European countries. This cooperation will take place, among other channels, through IMPEL.

4.5 Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement in relation to exports with false end of waste status

If the material meets the conditions for the end of waste status (in Dutch), it can be exported as a product. Sometimes, however, exporters deliberately classify waste under an end-of-waste code even though this classification is not justified. This may be done to enable exports of waste to non-OECD countries that would otherwise be prohibited. The ILT is going to intensify its compliance monitoring in order to reduce the likelihood of this happening.

4.6 Permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement in relation to the incineration of plastic waste

There is a risk that more plastic waste in Europe will end up in incinerators. Not only does this run counter to Europe's circular economy ambitions, it also generates new residual waste in the form of bottom ash (in Dutch). The ILT will therefore monitor and monitor the supply of plastic waste to waste incinerators.

Conclusion

The EU aims, among other things, to better protect the environment and human health, and to keep waste within the EU for recycling in order to reduce dependency on external markets. Under the new WSR, the requirements will become increasingly stringent over the coming years. As is in other European countries, plastic recycling companies in the Netherlands are going through a difficult period. Several companies went bankrupt in 2024 and 2025. One of the issues they are having to deal with is the low price of virgin plastic, which has reduced demand for recycled plastic (recyclate). These bankruptcies are one of the reasons why a quarter of plastic recycling capacity in the Netherlands has disappeared.

It remains uncertain whether, from 2030 onwards, Dutch companies will use European recyclate to meet the mandatory requirement that packaging contains at least 30% recycled plastic. While this is the EU's objective, the market favours either cheaper non-European recyclate or virgin plastic. There are also concerns that the new obligations will lead to fraud, whereby virgin plastic is sold as recycled plastic. Regulations requiring recycled content in Dutch packaging to be sourced, at least in part, from European recyclate would encourage the use of Dutch recycled materials. In addition, recycling companies often prefer to have plastic waste processed outside the Netherlands through traders. Foreign parties frequently pay for Dutch commercial waste, and even where exporters must pay treatment costs, processing abroad is generally much cheaper due to lower energy and labour costs. Although strict conditions apply to the export of plastic waste, it is not clear whether Dutch waste causes environmental harm in the countries to which it is exported. The ILT does not have the authority to carry out its own inspections abroad to verify this. This is despite the RIVM's study finding that improper processing could be harmful to humans and the environment.

Non-EU OECD countries
As from 21 May 2026, all shipments of plastic waste to non-EU countries that are OECD members must be accompanied by a notification. In particular, Türkiye is a non-EU, but OECD, country to which much Dutch plastic waste is exported.

Exporters shipping plastic waste to Türkiye will therefore face additional administrative requirements. On the other hand, from 21 November 2026, exports of plastic waste to countries that are not OECD members will be completely prohibited. This could make Türkiye an even more attractive destination for plastic waste exports. The ILT will continue its efforts to gain a better insight into the processing of residual streams from plastic waste and the consequences of that processing in Türkiye.

Processing within Europe
The EU's objective is for plastic waste to be processed within Europe. However, this study shows that, given the cost difference between recyclers inside and outside the EU, processing within the EU is not an attractive option for many businesses. The more stringent EWSR regulations are likely to lead to plastic waste exports being redirected towards OECD countries such as Türkiye. There are concerns regarding the proper treatment of the plastic waste. The regulations are unlikely to result in more plastic waste being processed within the Netherlands or other European countries.

Follow-up

The ILT is publishing this report because it concludes that much remains to be done to stimulate plastic recycling within Europe. The ILT does not have a complete overview of processing in countries outside Europe. In order to encourage recycling within Europe, the ILT will strengthen its compliance monitoring as described in the various scenarios. In addition, the ILT identifies the following points for further action:

- **ILT to inspect imported recyclate**
  Due to the higher price of Dutch recyclate, many parties that use recycled plastic prefer imported recyclate. The ILT wants to promote a level playing field by checking recyclate imported into the EU against EU requirements. The import of cheap recyclate from outside the EU poses a threat to the circular processing of plastic waste into recyclate that already has to meet these requirements.

- **More insight in exports to non-EU OECD countries**
  3 of the 10 largest recipients of Dutch plastic waste in Türkiye are located in an area with a high concentration of recycling facilities where there is significant pollution due to plastic waste processing. Residual waste streams may be dumped or burned by companies. It is unknown whether Dutch waste is among these waste streams. Dutch regulators are unable to carry out inspections in another country. It is difficult for ILT inspectors to establish contacts with the local competent authorities, unlike most countries that are part of the Basel Convention. For this reason, the ILT is paying particular attention to the processing of residual plastic waste streams exported to Türkiye.

- **Register plastic waste flows**
  The ILT advises that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to explore the possibility of registering and reporting all plastic waste streams. Improved insight into the movement of plastic waste, both within the Netherlands and abroad, would enable the ILT to target its inspections more effectively.

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- NGO employee (Türkiye), March 2025, online conversation.
- Employee of the trade association of plastic recyclers (Türkiye), April 2025.

Reporting environmental crime

This report deals with the export and processing of plastic waste, for which the ILT is the supervisory body. Some incidents may also involve environmental crime. The ILT has its own Intelligence and Investigation Service (ILT-IOD) whose job it is to detect such crimes. Under the authority of the National Public Prosecutor's Office for Serious Fraud, Environmental Crime and Asset Confiscation (*Functioneel Parket*), the ILT-IOD conducts criminal investigations into organised environmental crime. Its investigations often concern international networks and trade streams which, if there is no intervention, lead to irreparable harm to people, the environment and society.

The environment cannot speak for itself, so information from the public and businesses is crucial. Everyone can actively help our living environment by reporting suspicious situations. Whether that takes the form of a formal report, or the anonymous sharing of confidential information with the criminal intelligence team, every contribution is vital to tackle this injustice.

How to report
If you have any suspicions of environmental crime being committed, please report this to the ILT-IOD by calling +31 (0)70-456 6523 or by sending an email to iod.infodesk@ilent.nl. Reports can also be made anonymously by telephoning the Criminal Intelligence Team (*Team Criminele Inlichtingen*, TCI) on +31 (0)70-456 4577.

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