



The European Commission proposal
for a new Waste Shipment Regulation

A renewed framework for waste shipments to protect people and the planet

Factsheet



Environment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview.....	3
2. Context and main drivers of the proposal.....	4
3. Features of the new rules.....	6
4. Implications for third countries.....	8
5. International cooperation for sustainable waste management.....	9
6. Questions and Answers.....	10
7. References and additional information.....	15
8. Annex.....	16

Note to the reader

This Factsheet is for internal use only and should not be disseminated to stakeholders external to the European Union institutions.

Manuscript completed in January 2022

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.

© European Union, 2022



The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented based on Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).

Except otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders.

1. OVERVIEW

In line with the [European Green Deal](#) and the second [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), the Commission adopted a proposal for a new Waste Shipment Regulation on 17 November 2021. This proposal is being assessed by the co-legislators, the EU Council and the European Parliament, which will decide on its final adoption.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION?

The Commission proposal aims at:

- establishing **new and stronger rules for EU waste exports** ensuring that the EU does not export its waste challenges to third countries and contributes to environmentally sound management of waste;
- **strengthening enforcement** of the waste shipment regulation to prevent illegal shipments of waste occurring within the EU, as well as from the EU to third countries; and
- Facilitating shipments of waste for **reuse and recycling** within the EU.



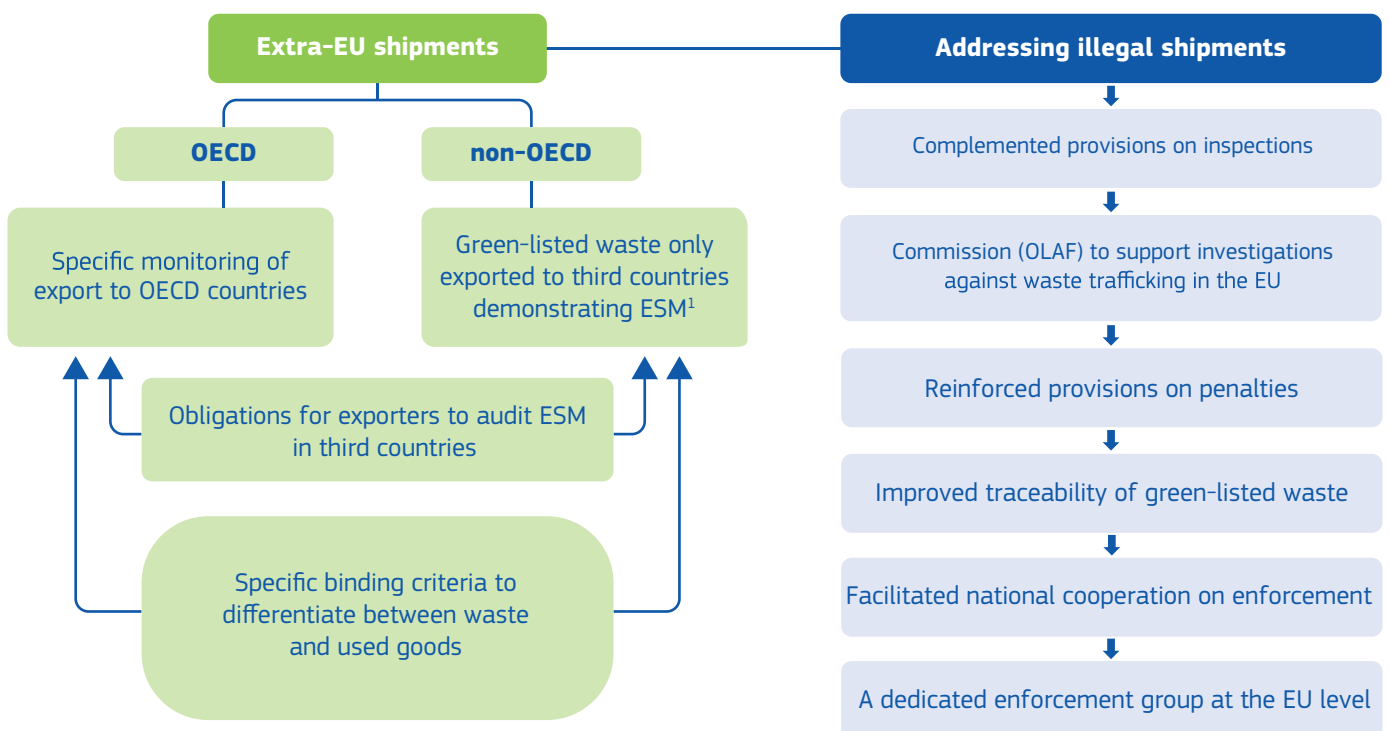
WHY ARE NEW RULES NEEDED?

The new rules are needed because:

- EU **waste exports have increased by 75%** since 2004;
- Recovery of exported waste often took place in **environmentally unsound conditions**, resulting in increased pollution;
- Some countries have decided to stop imports of waste;
- Globally, **waste trafficking** has become one of the most serious forms of environmental crime; and
- Further awareness is needed of the positive economic value of waste used as secondary raw materials or to replace primary materials, contributing to a **circular economy** in the EU and in third countries.

WHAT'S NEW?

New measures in the proposed legislation are highlighted in the graph below:



¹ Environmentally Sound Management of Waste

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIRD COUNTRIES?

Expected impacts for third countries are:

- **Environmental:** reduction of negative environmental impacts of EU waste exports and promotion of high environmental standards in waste management.
- **Economic:** gains generated through the promotion of investments in modern and sustainable waste management systems and technologies, and of economic activities linked to waste treatment, including circular economy.
- **Social:** positive impacts on the health of waste workers and communities.



2. CONTEXT AND MAIN DRIVERS OF THE PROPOSAL

Waste management is one of the most critical environmental challenges for our planet and especially for developing countries, where rapid urbanisation is increasing waste generation.

The European Union has been at the forefront of international initiatives to improve waste management and has an ambitious agenda and comprehensive legislation to reduce waste generation, transform waste into resources, and monitor waste shipments.

The [Green Deal](#), the [Circular Economy Action Plan \(CEAP\)](#), and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#), *inter alia*, call to ensure that the EU

- does not export its waste challenges to third countries,
- facilitates shipments of waste destined for re-use and recycling within the EU,
- addresses more effectively the illegal shipment of waste, and therefore
- **revises the existing Waste Shipment Regulation.**

A revision of the existing waste shipment regime laid down in the [2006 Waste Shipment Regulation](#) is needed because:



EU waste exports increased by 75% since 2004, representing 33 million tons/year, with almost half of all waste exports destined to **non-OECD countries**. The necessity to better manage waste has thus never been stronger.



Although waste exported from the EU may generate economic activities if it is recovered in the importing countries (for example to produce paper, steel or plastics, using waste as feedstock), **recovery activities often take place in conditions which are not environmentally sound**. Recovery plants themselves may be operating under insufficient standards on air, water, or soil pollution.



Waste exports and residual waste that are not properly treated risk generating **increased pollution**, ending up in dumpsites or burning sites, contaminating air and water, harming public health and emitting substantial amounts of greenhouse gases. The **leakage into the ocean** of plastic waste exported abroad is also a source of marine litter.



Pollution due to poor waste treatment is particularly problematic in **developing and emerging countries**, which already face important challenges in dealing with their domestic waste and are expected to experience the highest growth in waste generation in the future.



Some **third countries have stated that they do not wish to receive EU waste** exports, sending a clear signal that waste exports must be better regulated.



Waste trafficking has become one of the most serious forms of environmental crime and an area in which organized crime networks are active, both for intra-EU and extra-EU shipments of waste. Estimates suggest that the annual revenues derived from the illicit waste market in the EU range between 4 and 15 billion euro (mid-point figure of 9.5 billion euro). Significant amounts of waste leave the EU illegally to end up in third countries that often cannot treat the waste in a sustainable manner. The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) reports that of 30.8% of inspected waste shipments were in violation of the WSR in 2016 and 33.4% in 2017.

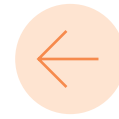
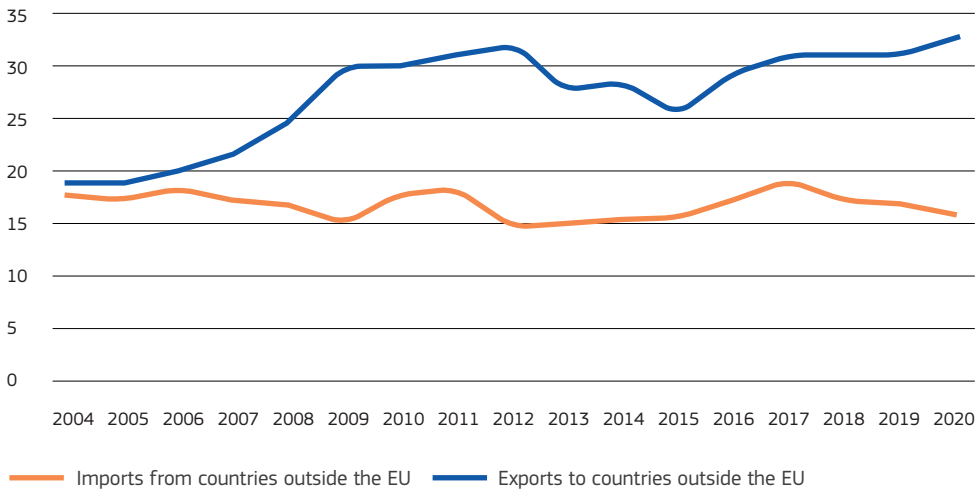


It is necessary to **achieve a more circular economy** in the EU and in third countries, where waste is recycled to a greater extent than today instead of ending up in landfills or being incinerated. The **use of waste** as secondary raw material or to replace primary materials must be further promoted in the EU and abroad. In this perspective, the EU must also take responsibility to manage a larger share of its own waste right where it is generated.

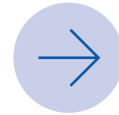
DEVELOPMENT OF WASTE IMPORTS / EXPORTS IN RECENT YEARS

The European Union's exports and imports of waste

(million tonnes)



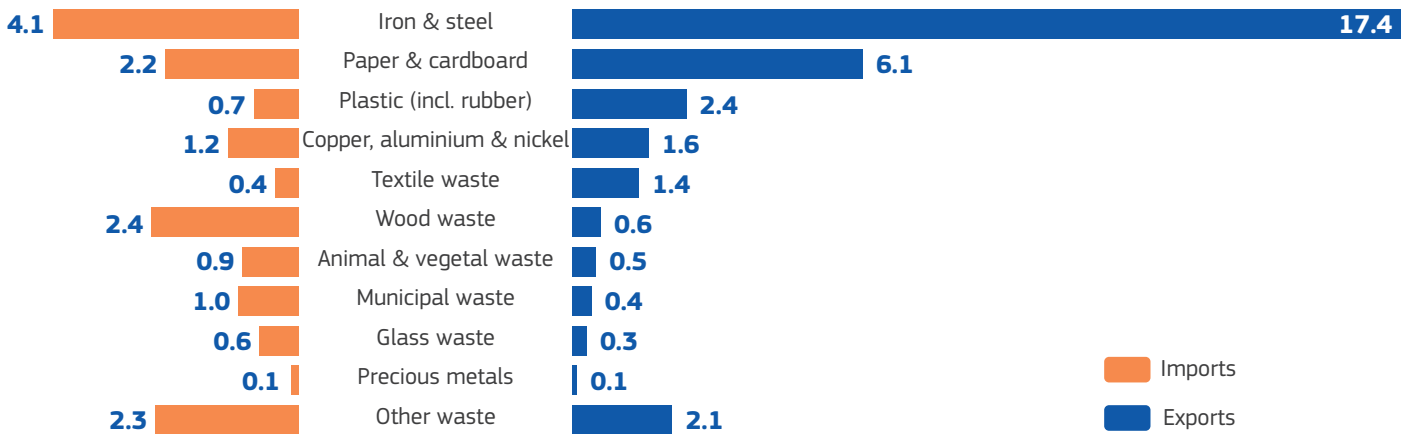
Imports in 2020:
16 million tonnes,
worth €13.5 billion



Exports in 2020:
28.66 million tonnes,
worth €13 billion

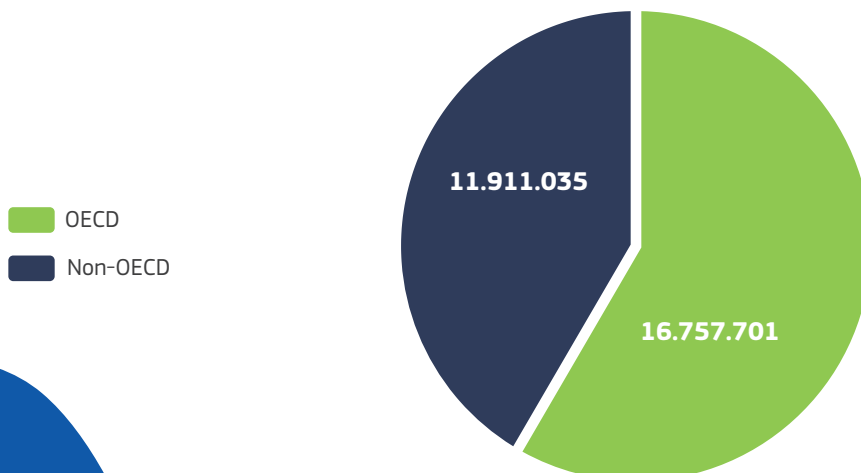
Exports and imports from/to the European Union, by waste category in 2020

(million tonnes)



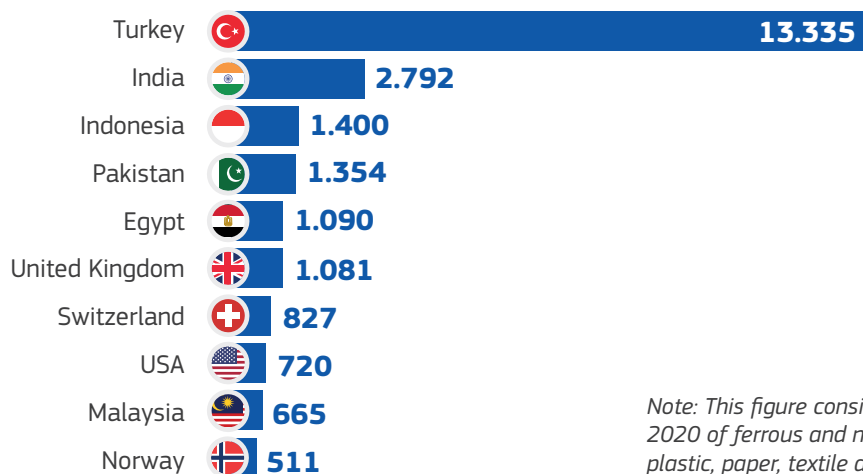
Total waste exports from the EU to OECD and non-OECD countries in 2020 by weight

(million tonnes)



Total
28,668,736 tonnes

Top 10 destinations for EU waste in 2020 (by weight/volume) (million tonnes)



Note: This figure considers exports in 2020 of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, plastic, paper, textile and glass.

3. FEATURES OF THE NEW RULES

The revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation confirms certain rules already included in the existing legislation but also introduces new rules ensuring more effective control of waste shipments to third countries.

Waste exports to third countries for disposal (i.e. incineration without energy recovery or landfilling) continue to be prohibited, except for European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries under specific conditions.

For countries that are not members of the OECD, exports of hazardous waste also continue to be prohibited.

Exports of other waste (“green-listed”) to such countries from the EU will be made conditional on an official request from the country to import non-hazardous waste from the EU and a demonstration that it can recover it in a sound manner. A list of countries authorised to import waste from the EU will be set up.

The new rules on waste exports to non-OECD countries and the requirements for an audit of the waste management facilities in the destination countries will apply three years after the entry into force of the Regulation, allowing for a transition period to make the necessary compliance preparations and arrangements.

Waste export requirements generally differentiate between:

- the characteristics of the waste in question (notably whether it is hazardous or not);
- the country of destination (notably whether the destination country is in the OECD or not);
- the final treatment operation of the waste in question (more control — or prohibitions — for waste destined to disposal and less control for waste destined to recovery)

WHAT IS ALREADY COVERED BY EXISTING RULES?

- Exports of waste to third countries for disposal are prohibited.
- Exports of hazardous waste and a few other problematic waste (especially unsorted plastic waste) for recovery to non-OECD countries is prohibited.
- Exports of waste for recovery to a non-OECD country is prohibited if the country of destination has prohibited the import of that waste.
- Exports of waste for recovery to a non-OECD country is prohibited if the competent authority of dispatch has reason to believe the waste will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- An operator wishing to ship non-hazardous waste (“green-listed waste”) for recovery in another country must fulfil the general information requirements and make sure that the shipment is accompanied by relevant documentation; no prior consent is required.

WHAT ARE THE NEW RULES FOR WASTE EXPORTS?

NEW RULES FOR WASTE SHIPMENTS TO OECD COUNTRIES

- ▶ Exports will be monitored.
- ▶ If there are concerns that certain exports are increasing and likely to cause environmental damage in the country of destination, the Commission will engage in a dialogue with this country.
- ▶ Ultimately, such exports will be suspended if the waste is not managed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

NEW RULES FOR WASTE SHIPMENTS TO NON-OECD COUNTRIES

- ▶ Only exports of **non-hazardous ('green-listed') waste** may be allowed for non-OECD countries.
- ▶ These countries must **explicitly notify the European Commission** of their willingness to receive EU waste exports and **demonstrate their ability** to treat this waste in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- ▶ A **list of countries authorised** to receive green-listed waste will be drawn up by the Commission and exports to countries that are not included will not be allowed.

NEW RULES FOR EXPORTS TO BOTH OECD AND NON-OECD COUNTRIES

- ▶ EU exporting **companies** will have to demonstrate that the waste they export is properly managed.
- ▶ To achieve this, they must ensure that **independent audits** are carried out in the facilities to which they ship waste, demonstrating those facilities manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. Failing this, the companies must stop exporting their waste to the facility concerned.

ADDRESSING ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS OF WASTE

- ▶ An EU **'waste shipment enforcement group'** will be established to increase cooperation and coordination against illegal shipments of waste, comprising environmental, customs, police and other relevant national inspection authorities, as well as European and international law enforcement networks.
- ▶ The Commission will be empowered (through its Anti-fraud office, OLAF) to **support transnational investigations** by EU Member States on waste trafficking.
- ▶ **Third countries will be supported** in fighting waste trafficking through various channels of international cooperation (For additional information, please refer to section 5. International cooperation for sustainable waste management).
- ▶ Existing rules on **administrative penalties against illegal shipment of waste** will be strengthened to achieve greater deterrence and consistency across the EU, by establishing common criteria to determine the types and levels of penalties to be imposed for infringements by EU waste exporters.
- ▶ Specific binding criteria will be established to prevent waste from being falsely exported as 'used goods' for products of particular concern, such as used vehicles and batteries.
- ▶ A proposal for a new EU Directive on Environmental Crime was adopted by the Commission on 15 December 2021. It proposes to oblige Member States to take criminal law measures, sets a minimum level for sanctions and strengthens the effectiveness of law enforcement cooperation.

WHAT ABOUT IMPORTS OF WASTE INTO THE EU?

The new regulation includes in its Title V the provisions and procedural requirements for imports into the Union from third countries. These provisions establish that:

- Imports of **waste for disposal** into the EU are only allowed from countries that are Party to the Basel Convention or with an agreement in place or from other areas during situations of crisis or war.
- Imports of **waste for recovery** into the EU are only allowed from OECD countries and countries that are Party to the Basel Convention.
- Additional obligations are included to **ensure the sound management of waste imported** by EU Member States.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR THIRD COUNTRIES

EXPECTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Improvement in standards and practices for waste management where applicable in countries importing EU waste, to make it environmentally sustainable.
- Reduction of the amount of waste not managed in an environmentally sound manner, also resulting in a reduction in the exports of domestic waste.
- Greenhouse gasses and other harmful emissions will be reduced due to a proper and environmentally sound management of waste.
- The promotion of waste recycling and its use as secondary material will also reduce other environmental emissions and contribute to energy savings and the protection of virgin resources.
- The treatment of waste (in the EU or in third countries authorized to import waste) in conditions which are subject to high environmental requirements helps to avoid environmental externalities. It is estimated that 266 to 666 million euro per year may be avoided in environmental externalities related to residue treatment and transport emissions from shipping EU waste to third countries.
- Industries relying on imported waste as feedstock may shift to domestic waste as a new source of production, which could lead to a better collection and treatment of such domestic waste.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- While a reduction of the waste imports from the EU might have a negative impact on some non-OECD countries that rely on this supply for their recycling industry, the new EU requirements for exports of waste may lead to the development and improvement of modern waste management systems and technologies, generating economic gains.
- EU requirements may also lead to more attention being paid to the treatment of domestic waste in third countries (for example, to replace imported waste currently used by some industries as feedstock) and bring about economic activities linked to this treatment.

EXPECTED SOCIAL IMPACTS

- While employment in some (informal) sectors may be affected due to reduced imports of waste, positive impacts are expected on the health of waste workers and communities living around waste management facilities.

POLICY AND REGULATORY IMPACTS

FOR OECD COUNTRIES	FOR NON-OECD COUNTRIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Engagement with the EU Commission in a dialogue monitoring certain waste shipments.▶ Cooperation of national authorities with the EU Commission in the assessment of their waste management policies and legislation, in case an issue related to waste export is detected that may lead to the suspension of the exports. As necessary and if so decided by national authorities, adaptation of these policies and legislation to comply with standards that are broadly equivalent to standards established in EU legislation.▶ Cooperation of national authorities with waste exporters from the EU to facilitate the necessary audit on sound waste management.▶ Strengthening enforcement of waste shipment and cooperation with EU law enforcement institutions and networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ As a first step, third country authorities must decide whether they want to continue importing waste from the EU. If they do, they need to inform the Commission and transmit all the elements required in the new proposed measures to demonstrate that they are able to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner.▶ Cooperation of national authorities with the EU Commission in the assessment of their waste management policies and legislation in order to be included in the list of countries allowed to import EU waste. As necessary and if so decided by national authorities, adaptation of these policies and legislation to comply with that are broadly equivalent to standards established in EU legislation.▶ Cooperation of national authorities with waste exporters from the EU to facilitate the required audit on sound waste management.▶ Strengthening enforcement of waste shipments and cooperation with EU law enforcement institutions and networks.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

In addition to revising its rules on waste shipments, the EU will support initiatives at the global, regional, and bilateral levels to:



BETTER HARNESS GLOBAL TRADE IN WASTE THROUGH:

- support of **international initiatives** in the Basel Convention framework, UNEP and OECD aiming at stricter controls of plastic waste and other special waste stream exports which may be harmful to the environment;
- **bilateral cooperation** with third countries for effective control of waste shipments using policy dialogue, exchange of information and other means of support.



IMPROVE GLOBAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY:

- supporting multilateral initiatives within **UNEA, G20, G7, the OECD and the Basel Convention** to address sound management of waste and special waste streams;
- increasing **regional and bilateral cooperation** with the most relevant third countries;
- including waste management and circular economy actions in the **multiannual indicative programmes** framing the cooperation of the EU with third countries.



MOBILIZE ALL ACTORS AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL WASTE CRIMES THROUGH:

- **support from the European Commission to the enforcement activities** of Member States, contributing to a uniform application of the new rules throughout the Union;
- intensified Commission cooperation with the [European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law \(IMPEL\)](#);
- commitment by the Commission to provide financial support to **operational projects** that directly target waste trafficking;
- further engagement with **key partners** and support to global and regional cooperation in controlling illegal waste shipments, involving **international organizations** (e.g. UNODC, Interpol), **governmental and civil society stakeholders**.

Example of cooperation on transnational waste crimes: the “UNWASTE” project

The 3-year project ‘Unwaste - Tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy transition’, launched in August 2021, aims to address trafficking in waste between the EU and South East Asia by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member States partnerships, in support of ongoing efforts towards a circular economy transition, and in line with the relevant sectoral policy frameworks in the EU and in targeted countries. This action, targeting Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, should allow us to:

- better understand waste flows between the EU and Southeast Asia (with an additional focus on the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on healthcare and hazardous waste movements);
- to promote cooperation through national dialogues to combat illicit movements of waste from the EU towards Southeast Asia; and
- to facilitate intra- and inter-regional dialogues (i.e. with and among ASEAN Member States) at the policy level to promote partnerships between the EU and Southeast Asian nations, in support of the circular economy approach.

The project, jointly implemented with UNODC and with the support of UNEP, will be managed by the FPI regional hub for Asia/Pacific, based in Bangkok. Its work will be overseen by annual Steering Committees which will be chaired by FPI.

Complementarities with other relevant EU initiatives will be sought, including OLAF’s project on strengthening and standardising customs waste controls at the EU borders, in which OLAF would also like to involve the four countries with which the EU partners in the context of Unwaste.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INDEX

1. [What is the purpose of the review of the WSR?](#)
2. [What will change as regards the rules on waste exports?](#)
3. [What is the procedure when a country intends to notify the European Commission of their willingness to receive EU waste exports?](#)
4. [How can a country demonstrate their ability to treat imported waste in an environmentally sound manner?](#)
5. [Is the third country involved in the process of establishing the list of countries authorized to import waste from the EU?](#)
6. [What is the expected impact of the proposed export measures on third countries?](#)
7. [What will be the impact of the Regulation on waste treatment companies and small or informal businesses in destination countries?](#)
8. [What is envisaged in terms of cooperation between the EU and third countries?](#)
9. [Why is the Commission making a distinction between OECD and non-OECD countries in its proposals for new measures on the export of waste?](#)
10. [In addition to the revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation, what is the EU doing to tackle its waste challenges and to boost the circular economy?](#)
11. [How does the proposed Regulation conform to WTO rules about waste exports?](#)
12. [How will companies make sure that the waste they export is managed in a clean and safe way in destination countries?](#)
13. [How will the measures relating specifically to the export of waste to non-OECD countries work?](#)
14. [Once the Regulation is adopted, when exactly would the obligations it imposes begin to apply to public and private stakeholders?](#)
15. [By regulating which types of waste may enter the market of third countries, doesn't the EU interfere in sovereign decisions of partner countries?](#)
16. [Which countries will be most affected by the Regulation?](#)
17. [Which countries are the biggest importers of EU waste?](#)



1. What is the purpose of the review of the WSR?

The overall objective of the review of the WSR is to increase the level of protection of the environment and public health from the impacts of unsound transboundary shipments of waste.

It pursues the ambitious approach laid down in the Green Deal and the Circular Economic Action Plan to facilitate shipments within the EU, so that the EU can better take care of its own waste, guarantee that waste exported outside the EU is managed in an environmentally sound manner, and better address illegal shipments of waste.

The new proposal aims to address the lack of detailed provisions and mechanisms for implementation of the current rules, which has led to weak enforcement.

2. What will change as regards the rules on waste exports?

The current WSR already stipulates that waste can only be exported outside the EU if it is managed at destination in an environmentally sound manner, according to conditions that are broadly equivalent to the EU's.

To ensure that the export of waste from the EU to third countries is managed sustainably, the following measures are proposed:

- For countries that are not members of the OECD, exports of hazardous waste continue to be prohibited.
- Exports to non-OECD countries of non-hazardous ("green-listed") waste from the EU would be made conditional on an official request from the country to import non-hazardous waste from the EU and a demonstration that it can recover it in a sound manner. A list of countries authorised to import waste from the EU will be set up.
- A mechanism to monitor waste exports to OECD countries outside the EU is introduced in order to be able to limit waste exports to such countries, where necessary.
- EU exporting companies would have to carry out independent audits for their waste exports outside the EU, to OECD as well as non-OECD countries. These audits should demonstrate that the facilities that receive the waste treat it in an environmentally sound manner. EU companies would only be authorised to export to these audited facilities.

The proposed measures on exports of waste should help reduce environmental problems in third countries and contribute to better waste management practices.

3. What is the procedure when a country intends to notify the European Commission of their willingness to receive EU waste exports?

Non-OECD countries are required to submit a formal request to the Commission indicating the willingness to

receive waste exports from the EU and to be included in the list of countries authorized to receive waste from the EU. The request must use the form included in the respective Annex of the proposed Regulation (Annex VIII of proposal) and must include the information specified in the Annex. The country making the request shall demonstrate that it has put in place and implements all necessary measures to ensure that the waste concerned will be managed in an environmentally sound manner as described in the proposed regulation. Management of waste is deemed "environmentally sound" if "it can be demonstrated that the waste will be managed in accordance with human health and environmental protection requirements that are broadly equivalent to the human health and environmental protection requirements laid down in Union legislation." The Commission will assess the requests without undue delay. The assessment will be based on the information and supporting evidence provided by the country making the request, as well as other relevant information. If the Commission is satisfied that the requirements are complied with, it shall include the country making the request in the list of countries to which exports are authorized.

4. How can a country demonstrate their ability to treat imported waste in an environmentally sound manner?

The ability to treat imported waste in an environmentally sound manner must be demonstrated in the notification of willingness to receive EU waste exports and the request to be included in the list of countries authorized to receive EU waste exports. The request must contain comprehensive information about the ability to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner which is specified in the proposed Regulation. The information demonstrating the ability must show that the country:

- has a comprehensive waste management strategy or plan that covers its entire territory and shows its ability and readiness to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste;
- has a legal framework for waste management in place (necessary permitting or licensing, pollution controls and enforcement regimes);
- is a Party to the multilateral environmental agreements referred to in the respective Annex of the proposed Regulation (Annex VIII) and has taken the necessary measures to implement its obligations under those agreements; and
- has put in place a strategy for enforcement of domestic legislation on waste management and waste shipment, covering control and monitoring measures, including information on the number of inspections of shipments of waste and of waste management facilities carried out and on penalties imposed in cases of infringements of the relevant domestic rules.

5. Is the third country involved in the process of establishing the list of countries authorized to import waste from the EU?

The inclusion in the list depends on a specific request of the third country to be included in the list which is accompanied by the information required and specified in the proposed Regulation. The third country will be involved in the process of establishing the list and its inclusion in the list through the communication with the Commission who may also request additional information if necessary for the assessment of the request. The Commission will give the country an opportunity to provide additional information within a maximum period of three months; that period may be extended by an additional period of three months where the requesting country makes a reasoned request for such extension.

Where the country making the request does not provide the additional information within the time limit, or where the provided additional information is still considered to be incomplete or insufficient to demonstrate compliance with the requirements, the Commission will inform without undue delay the country making the request that it cannot be included in the list of countries to which exports are authorized and that its request will no longer be processed. In that case, the Commission will also inform the country making the request of the reasons for that conclusion. However, the country has the possibility to submit a new request.

6. What is the expected impact of the proposed export measures on third countries?

The proposed measures aim to limit the export of waste from the EU to countries or facilities where it would not be managed in an environmentally sound manner. Its goal is to foster the improvement of waste management in third countries in order to mitigate undesirable environmental and public health consequences. Countries complying with the new Regulation will be able to export waste from EU countries and to keep relying on those waste streams.

When the recycling industry in a third country relies on imported waste, however, this often hinders the establishment of a proper system for the collection and treatment of domestic waste. This is the case when imported waste is preferred for its better quality and domestic waste is dumped or burnt instead. The revised EU regulation could incentivize third countries to replace imported waste with sustainably managed domestic waste, and to invest in and develop more sustainable waste management systems.

Although, in the short term, a drop in waste exports from the EU to a particular country might lead to a loss of economic activity and jobs there, a properly supported transition to improved waste management should help counter any negative effects and fully associate third countries to the benefits of sustainable waste management.

The proposal should therefore have not only a positive environmental but also economic and social impact in third countries if leading to improved local waste management standards.

7. What will be the impact of the Regulation on waste treatment companies and small or informal businesses in destination countries?

Precise numbers regarding the impact of the Regulation on different types of waste treatment businesses will depend on the particular country and the structure and organisation of its waste sector.

The Regulation should foster the development of new policies and practices in the waste recovery sector which may create new jobs and new business opportunities, including for small and informal businesses.

For companies located in third countries which transport and process waste imported from the EU in an environmentally sound manner, the effect would be positive, as the audit would consolidate their activities and competitiveness. This is even though these companies could also incur some costs for upgrading their infrastructure and standards in the short term.

8. What is envisaged in terms of cooperation between the EU and third countries?

The Regulation will strengthen the control of waste exports to third countries. It is, however, only one of the elements in the “toolbox”. The EU will seek intensive dialogue and cooperation with third countries in the process of implementing the Regulation. It will pursue the Green Deal diplomacy and try to effectively promote better waste management and the uptake of circular economy models at global level. These efforts will include providing expertise and financial resources to scale up international partnerships and action in and with third countries on waste management and the circular economy:

- At the regional and bilateral levels, diplomatic activities will be underpinned by the inclusion of waste management and the circular economy in the multiannual indicative programmes of many third countries in 2021-2027, under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI). The EU is also engaging with regional alliances and coalitions on the circular economy that have been established in other regions, notably Africa and Latin America.
- At multilateral level, it is also a priority that will be pursued in the EU’s multilateral environmental agenda, especially in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), G20, G7, and the OECD; in multilateral environmental agreements like the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions; as well as through the

International Resources Panel. For example, the Commission supports multilateral initiatives that aim at promoting the circular economy and at improving the sustainable and safe management of waste, especially in the context of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, in line with the UNEP Special Programme on chemicals and waste which has been instrumental in addressing pollution in developing countries.

The EU has also been influential in putting together the [Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency \(GACERE\)](#), supported by the [EU's Partnership Instrument](#), which is also encouraging cooperation with different regions to fight plastic pollution and promote the transition to circular economy models. Finally, the EU is actively promoting the adoption of a global agreement on plastics in the context of UNEA.

9. Why is the Commission making a distinction between OECD and non-OECD countries in its proposals for new measures on the export of waste?

The proposal by the Commission contains measures on the export of all waste to all third countries. Some of these measures apply to all exports, while others are targeted to the specific situations of OECD and non-OECD countries.

The proposed measures are stricter for export of waste to non-OECD countries. This stems from the fact that OECD countries generally have higher waste management standards and practices, compared to non-OECD countries and that they are bound by OECD rules² in this area. When adhering to the OECD control system for waste recovery, each country must undergo a screening process whereby their waste management regime and legislation is subject to scrutiny by the OECD Secretariat and OECD members, which guarantees that their standards and practices comply with minimum requirements for waste management. This is not the case for non-OECD countries.

The distinction between OECD and non-OECD countries is also enshrined in international and EU law on waste shipment: the Basel Convention bans the export of hazardous waste from OECD countries to non-OECD countries. The OECD also regulates the shipments of all waste between its members through a dedicated legally-binding decision.³ The current EU legislation contains a distinction between OECD and non-OECD countries, going beyond the Basel Convention in banning not only the export of hazardous waste, but also of some other waste streams (like unsorted plastic waste) to non-OECD countries. The new regime proposed by the Commission therefore builds on a well-established distinction in existing legislation.

10. In addition to the revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation, what is the EU doing to tackle its waste challenges and to boost the circular economy?

The wider context of the Regulation is the [European Green Deal](#). The European Green Deal, the new [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) and the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) have called on the European Commission to propose a new approach to EU shipments of waste to support the overall objectives:

- facilitating shipments of waste for reuse and recycling in the EU;
- ensuring that the EU does not export its waste challenges to third countries; and
- tackling illegal waste shipments.

It must be noted that there are synergies between the Regulation and other pieces of EU waste legislation, especially the Waste Framework Directive, and directives covering specific waste streams: [The Directive on end-of-life vehicles](#), the [Batteries Directive](#), the [Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive](#), the [Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(WEEE\) Directive](#), and the [Ship Recycling Regulation](#) all contain specific provisions on transboundary movement of the specified waste streams that refer to the Waste Shipment Regulation. In 2019, the EU adopted the [Directive on single-use plastics](#). In pursuing further the European Green Deal objectives, the EU has an ambitious agenda to push for waste reduction and the transition to a circular economy. The agenda includes, inter alia, a proposed [batteries regulation](#), a [revision of the Directive on packaging and packaging waste](#), and the [Sustainable Products Initiative](#).

There are also synergies between the Regulation and other EU legislation that is relevant for waste shipments, especially the [Environmental Crime Directive](#). This Directive covers the penalization of criminal waste shipments and complements the enforcement provisions of the Regulation.



© TarikVision / Getty Images

² [OECD/LEGAL/0266](#)

³ [OECD/LEGAL/0266](#)

11. How does the proposed Regulation conform to WTO rules about waste exports?

The measures are **in line with the EU's international commitments** and the EU will continue to foster bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries and use its influence at global level to promote better waste management and the uptake of circular economy models worldwide.

The proposal by the Commission pursues an **environmental objective**. Waste treated in the EU is subject to comprehensive requirements designed to guarantee that this treatment operates in environmentally sound conditions. The proposal aims to ensure that the treatment of waste exported from the EU takes place in **conditions which are broadly equivalent to the requirements on environmental and human health protection applicable in the EU**. As such, the proposal is compatible with the WTO rules and the GATT agreement.

The proposal has been carefully crafted to comply with WTO rules: it would ensure the environmentally sound management of waste in a manner which is safe for human health both inside and outside the EU. There is no blanket ban of exports: rather the **treatment of exports depends on the waste management practices and rules in third countries**.

The measures will only apply three years after the Regulation becomes effective, giving the countries and businesses concerned a **reasonable period to adjust**.

12. How will companies make sure that the waste they export is managed in a clean and safe way in destination countries?

There are general obligations which apply to waste exports to both OECD and non-OECD countries. All EU exporting companies will be obliged to demonstrate that their exports are sustainable. It is essential that exporting companies assume responsibility for their exports. The Regulation requires all companies exporting waste outside the EU to conduct independent audits for the facilities to where they ship waste in order to ensure that those facilities are operating in line with criteria showing that they manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. This means that the exporting company is required to submit to the competent authorities in EU Member States the documentary proof that the facility in the receiving country can handle the waste in an environmentally sound manner. If the audits show that this is not the case, the companies would not be authorised to export their waste there.

Carrying out the audits should be facilitated by modern technical means, especially digital information and communication. Exporters can rely on independent audits already available for a specific facility, if these previous audits cover the capability of the facility to manage the waste to be exported.

This obligation applies to both OECD and non-OECD Countries, as the OECD Decision⁴ does not specify how to implement this requirement regarding the “environmentally sound management” of waste. In the absence of common OECD criteria defining the conditions under which waste shall be recovered in the relevant facilities, it is necessary to address the risk that waste exported from the EU to countries belonging to the OECD might be mismanaged in specific facilities.

13. How will the measures relating specifically to the export of waste to non-OECD countries work?

Export of non-hazardous waste to non-OECD countries will only be possible if:

- the waste falls under the listing of non-hazardous waste provided in the Regulation;
- the waste is exported for recovery;
- the destination country is included in the list of countries to which exports are authorised, based on a request by the destination country to the Commission, and after an assessment of this request by the Commission;
- the waste recovery facility is licensed under the domestic legislation of the country concerned, to undertake recovery operations for that waste.

The list of countries to which exports are authorized will be established by the Commission in a delegated act. This list shall include countries which have submitted a request to be included and have demonstrated compliance with the requirements.

14. Once the Regulation is adopted, when exactly would the obligations it imposes begin to apply to public and private stakeholders?

It is important to remind that the revised WSR first needs to be approved by all co-legislators and be finally adopted as a legislative act of the EU.

The Regulation then provides for its application in stages. While certain provisions will apply two years after the entry into force of the Regulation (i.e. the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*), key new provisions on the export of waste are proposed to apply only **three years** after its entry into force. The latter provisions in particular concern waste exports to non-OECD countries and the required audits of waste management facilities in the destination countries. This transition period should allow sufficient time to adapt and prepare for compliance.

During the transition period, the rules of the existing Waste Shipment Regulation will continue to apply.

³ [OECD/LEGAL/0266](#)

15. By regulating which types of waste may enter the market of third countries, doesn't the EU interfere in sovereign decisions of partner countries?

The aim of the EU is to ensure that it does not export its waste challenges and footprint abroad. Accordingly, it intends to only export waste that will be managed in an environmentally sustainable manner. The measures have been crafted to comply with existing international legal obligations, including the Basel Convention, the OECD Decision⁴ and WTO rules. If improvements to the waste management system of a third country is deemed necessary by the EU to authorise waste exports to this country, national authorities obviously preserve their rights at any stage to decide whether implementing the EU's recommendations.

16. Which countries will be most affected by the Regulation?

The Regulation concerns waste shipments within the EU and between the EU and third countries and provides differentiated rules for EU exports to OECD and non-OECD countries.

Countries that may be affected by the change in export rules proposed in the revised Regulation include **non-OECD countries** importing textile, paper, non-ferrous

metal scrap and, to a lesser extent, plastic waste and ferrous metal scrap. The top importers in this category are India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Egypt and the Russian Federation. In the longer term, reduced imports of waste could lead to the development and improvement of domestic waste management systems in developing countries. This should result in more efficient and sustainable management systems.

Among **OECD countries**, Turkey is by far the largest importer of waste from the EU (namely ferrous metals like steel, and glass). However, the impact on OECD countries should be limited: potential costs related to the audit of waste management conditions by EU exporters will be marginal, and most countries would probably not need to substantially invest in their waste management system to meet EU requirements.

Tables on imports in Annex 1 present the main importers of EU waste overall and per waste category.

17. Which countries are the biggest importers of EU waste?

Please refer to Annex 1 for tables presenting the main importers of EU waste overall and per waste category.

7. REFERENCES AND MORE INFORMATION



[Proposal for a revised Regulation on waste shipments](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Question and Answers on Revised waste shipment rules](#)

[Factsheet on Revised waste shipment rules](#)

[European Commission Communication "Our waste, our responsibility: Waste shipments in a clean and more circular economy"](#)

[Commission Staff Working Document "Executive summary of the impact assessment report"](#)

[2nd Circular Economy Action Plan](#)

[Zero Pollution Action Plan](#)

⁴OECD/LEGAL/0266

8. ANNEX

Export of all non-hazardous waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes

TOP 50 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	26,843,563	26,669,134	28,668,736	21,809,475
OECD	13,887,816	14,293,673	16,757,701	13,092,974
Non-OECD	12,955,747	12,375,461	11,911,035	8,716,501
1 Turkey	10,325,309	10,971,152	13,335,227	10,488,488
2 India	2,507,594	2,688,689	2,792,058	1,739,451
3 Egypt	778,138	1,069,232	1,090,701	1,458,402
4 Pakistan	928,399	1,071,492	1,354,860	862,193
5 Indonesia	1,049,353	1,259,851	1,400,035	843,632
6 Switzerland	877,836	807,485	827,664	771,520
7 UK	1,053,098	1,108,129	1,081,101	651,128
9 USA	696,305	493,179	720,276	579,629
8 Norway	578,478	608,705	511,586	383,666
10 Malaysia	417,434	592,106	656,925	357,949
11 Viet Nam	807,906	758,630	644,455	354,589
12 Morocco	360,084	274,068	248,902	351,485
13 Moldova	94,298	165,944	272,634	333,589
14 China	2,942,180	1,208,415	606,550	295,586
15 Thailand	512,961	630,334	421,216	293,301
16 Ukraine	290,959	276,599	364,484	288,993
17 Hong Kong	240,293	316,759	140,433	126,707
18 United Arab Emirates	135,127	145,782	172,847	119,194
19 Russia	65,982	108,318	163,508	99,744
20 Serbia	115,249	132,238	152,915	92,955
21 North Macedonia	78,641	98,539	77,457	83,733
22 Tunisia	105,508	119,800	107,141	81,243
23 Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	184,151	161,791	123,330	78,238
24 Bangladesh	189,125	228,668	119,680	74,598
25 Belarus (Belorussia)	173,059	195,372	119,341	72,429
26 Taiwan	232,889	187,461	118,815	58,253
27 Japan	59,152	62,719	65,229	56,387
29 Cameroon	67,571	67,802	71,642	46,413
28 Saudi Arabia	21,639	17,405	60,737	46,379
30 Kuwait	130,441	69	42	46,000
31 Togo	51,538	55,280	55,988	40,074
32 Ghana	30,767	41,721	56,136	36,653
33 Albania	26,855	16,829	54,122	29,983
34 Brazil	10,129	15,983	28,397	27,576
35 Guinea	26,899	26,026	30,194	24,544
36 Philippines	19,935	18,684	17,878	23,473
37 Benin	31,085	33,797	27,543	22,815
38 Israel	14,500	14,612	8,984	21,551
39 Canada	23,963	26,377	27,209	20,672
40 Bosnia and Herzegovina	25,557	27,124	31,401	18,878
41 Nigeria	17,289	18,921	20,654	18,827
42 Senegal	21,000	18,017	19,570	18,023
43 Lebanon	12,967	7,324	10,272	16,531
44 Chile	16,501	15,598	13,195	15,498
45 Singapore	58,497	62,168	49,565	15,495
46 Kenya	23,115	40,926	42,530	13,001
47 Niger	13,228	18,053	12,614	12,077
48 Oman	16,555	20,749	16,608	11,672
49 Mali	12,443	13,786	13,858	10,697
50 Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	9,507	9,774	10,514	10,210

Export of ferrous metal waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes

TOP 50 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	15,122,027	15,578,905	17,446,536	14,604,229
OECD	11,530,379	11,414,630	13,657,623	11,195,795
Non-OECD	3,591,648	4,164,275	3,788,913	3,408,434
1 Turkey	9,615,352	9,824,255	11,775,690	9,761,685
2 Egypt	766,444	1,057,781	1,078,812	1,439,959
3 Pakistan	567,275	649,024	925,190	492,681
4 USA	588,185	392,633	628,325	489,766
5 Switzerland	492,775	387,557	482,229	470,762
6 India	848,119	1,089,603	688,692	348,763
7 Moldova	82,915	156,819	251,184	311,641
8 Morocco	325,138	240,335	203,473	292,436
9 UK	441,440	442,366	435,617	245,863
10 Norway	333,677	338,682	320,785	221,770
11 North Macedonia	70,498	93,329	74,951	82,147
12 Bangladesh	166,317	216,518	107,611	70,632
13 Kuwait	130,337			45,999
14 Viet Nam	198,398	87,090	55,199	45,267
15 Saudi Arabia	222	213	40,545	38,913
16 Belarus	124,804	135,251	73,018	35,013
17 Malaysia	20,121	44,964	41,207	31,423
18 Thailand	2,391	11,337	21,568	22,719
19 Indonesia	83,892	185,123	49,487	18,730
20 Albania	10,286	2,118	38,086	16,968
21 Taiwan	50,354	75,269	42,686	13,304
22 Brazil	1,556	2,187	2,318	11,300
23 Serbia	2,845	3,094	4,221	5,797
24 China	73,460	20,968	9,579	5,361
25 United Arab Emirates	24,136	18,421	10,189	4,337
26 Singapore	13,167	19,399	11,158	4,107
27 Hong Kong	15,809	12,233	6,087	3,067
28 Israel		-	6	3,050
29 Ghana		902	8,499	2,807
30 Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,160	3,655	4,780	2,170
31 Korea	22,624	25,397	9,836	1,193
32 Lebanon				1,142
33 Philippines	540	818	1,684	1,050
34 Canada	1,424	1,515	175	701
35 Mexico	31,380	28	46	652
36 Kenya	3,317	21,370	31,267	635
37 Ukraine	378	2,754	99	561
38 Tanzania, United Republic of	20			523
39 Argentina	612	902	542	521
40 Ethiopia (incl. Eritrea 'ER' -> 1993)			77	423
41 Oman	1,001	2,516	1,809	401
42 Japan	2,897	2,101	2,707	333
43 Macao				88
44 Ecuador	53	158	382	70
45 Russia	550	341	471	65
46 Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)	86			59
47 Jordan	135	168	49	50
48 Sint Maarten (Dutch part)				34
49 Nigeria	178	15		27
50 Sudan	2,023	21		26

Export of non-ferrous metal waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes

TOP 50 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	1,611,923	1,909,482	1,842,194	1,623,463
OECD	516,812	686,530	628,639	490,665
Non-OECD	1,095,111	1,222,952	1,213,555	1,132,798
1 India	249,346	300,393	367,413	328,296
2 China	550,209	472,078	292,714	271,994
3 Pakistan	110,698	139,691	135,851	129,193
4 Hong Kong	47,518	92,682	63,381	118,552
5 Turkey	35,035	67,342	97,793	109,777
6 Malaysia	24,728	67,098	84,521	92,063
7 Norway	77,953	160,156	105,274	87,502
8 UK	157,199	185,234	170,975	81,770
9 Switzerland	79,641	85,402	65,797	58,693
10 Japan	50,662	54,247	59,834	52,983
11 Thailand	6,750	16,220	50,416	47,459
12 United States (incl. Navassa Island (part of 'UM') from 1995 -> 2000)	61,675	59,820	45,600	38,091
13 Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	32,604	47,424	57,549	37,111
14 Taiwan	20,664	24,833	33,988	33,150
15 Indonesia	6,658	7,822	18,777	18,495
16 Russian Federation (Russia)	9,063	27,186	54,479	16,701
17 Canada	16,416	17,376	21,854	15,577
18 Viet Nam	6,421	8,863	23,580	14,210
19 Serbia	12,316	13,902	10,906	12,247
20 Ukraine	11,116	12,682	12,025	10,996
21 Albania	8,346	7,045	9,314	7,073
22 Singapore	7,143	8,812	8,330	6,327
23 Philippines	720	2,406	8,593	5,629
24 Mexico	1,646	1,722	1,312	5,271
25 Saudi Arabia	7,330	4,787	8,731	4,165
26 Israel	2,898	6,512	1,359	3,156
27 Brazil	2,593	2,149	2,387	3,153
28 United Arab Emirates	6,114	4,349	4,866	2,978
29 Belarus	240	960	2,122	1,513
30 Sri Lanka	849	683	716	1,412
31 Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,424	1,431	743	1,343
32 Bangladesh	439	1,023	6	954
33 Jordan	22	1	447	658
34 Australia	493	594	782	370
35 Ghana	31	51	380	281
36 South Africa (incl. Namibia 'NA' -> 1989)	51	92	255	221
37 New Zealand	332	388	332	218
38 Congo	8	1	12	200
39 Morocco	357	502	375	196
40 Egypt	406	591	558	186
41 Panama	-	20	-	179
42 Oman	-	66	73	103
43 Peru	160	127	23	93
44 Algeria	947	988	125	89
45 Mauritius	5	8	142	86
46 Colombia	138	79	102	81
47 Chile	116	235	74	47
48 Georgia	-	-	-	44
49 Kazakhstan	179	115	72	27
50 Nepal	113	117		25

Export of paper waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes
TOP 50 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	6,827,461	5,830,892	6,067,127	3,337,834
OECD	997,283	1,237,906	1,362,886	604,497
Non-OECD	5,830,178	4,592,986	4,704,241	2,733,337
1 India	1,178,776	1,107,687	1,627,385	964,075
2 Indonesia	839,012	966,307	1,185,979	744,783
3 Turkey	402,312	720,868	919,674	271,154
4 Thailand	477,523	597,472	345,978	221,492
5 Ukraine	176,509	139,004	262,607	219,762
6 Viet Nam	437,732	617,347	454,979	203,204
7 Switzerland (incl. Liechtenstein 'LI' -> 1994)	217,440	238,292	172,673	163,185
8 Malaysia	68,873	114,889	164,361	142,063
9 UK	114,455	112,718	144,106	89,547
10 Pakistan	67,202	75,832	95,162	67,948
11 Serbia	77,586	89,140	101,212	56,421
12 Norway	135,260	77,036	52,916	46,749
13 Russia	731	12,990	42,280	30,616
14 Philippines	16,746	14,246	6,540	16,083
15 Egypt	4,855	6,863	5,675	14,982
16 Korea	103,960	69,651	40,922	11,307
17 Israel	5,942	2,987	1,755	11,124
18 China	2,246,039	689,007	295,331	10,600
19 Taiwan	112,522	70,669	33,412	9,878
20 Lebanon	719	102	4,481	7,627
21 Australia	207	4,992	3,113	6,436
22 Belarus	12,305	15,668	1,644	4,712
23 Colombia	2,357	1,875	3,656	3,228
24 Singapore	35,675	30,325	28,537	2,897
25 United Arab Emirates	12,426	8,740	6,280	2,355
26 Tunisia	4,616	3,697	1,293	1,619
27 Cuba	469	2,642	2,438	1,551
28 Bangladesh	17,690	8,495	9,508	1,356
29 North Macedonia	7,562	4,471	1,568	1,093
30 Bosnia and Herzegovina	463	207	112	1,086
31 Moldova	2,135	1,389	1,306	1,057
32 Ecuador	10,085	313	9,982	1,038
33 Mexico	8,384	2,216	20,554	783
34 Ethiopia		10	26	729
35 Chile	246	25	569	725
36 Paraguay	461	-	447	517
37 Hong Kong	2,647	87	530	483
38 Laos		482		478
39 Saudi Arabia	8,605	5,455	4,868	473
40 Ghana	1,809	1,378	1,732	422
41 Macao			-	270
42 Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)	410	968	892	268
43 Morocco	1,890	1,000	1,456	240
44 Mauritania		252	70	197
45 Brazil	413	29	390	157
46 Peru	-	-	-	129
47 Guatemala		42	113	119
48 Canada	112	34	19	118
49 Japan	2,623	5,017	1,486	57
50 USA	3,968	1,928	1,427	54

Export of plastic waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes
TOP 50 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	1,593,003	1,521,682	1,591,398	817,682
OECD	438,922	516,396	705,632	464,528
Non-OECD	1,154,081	1,005,286	885,766	353,154
1 Turkey	189,807	255,264	447,432	273,460
2 Malaysia	302,649	364,153	365,990	91,787
3 Viet Nam	163,765	43,550	110,077	91,371
4 UK	113,189	136,313	124,457	68,912
5 Indonesia	119,004	99,170	144,554	60,497
6 Switzerland	56,197	51,936	60,769	41,817
7 USA	31,409	28,870	35,057	32,705
8 Korea	24,371	18,993	14,848	28,562
9 India	139,554	90,997	18,780	21,579
10 Ukraine	30,550	36,377	28,033	17,939
11 Serbia	16,629	19,259	30,473	13,962
12 Bosnia and Herzegovina	17,153	18,388	22,434	11,456
13 Pakistan	22,429	22,061	22,930	10,234
14 Russia	2,133	9,397	11,729	5,576
15 Norway	5,201	7,205	7,450	4,820
16 New Zealand	3,388	3,298	4,057	3,985
17 Kosovo	49	815	3,689	3,884
18 Hong Kong	172,070	210,708	69,789	3,718
19 Morocco	3,659	3,719	3,299	3,599
20 Canada	4,731	6,429	4,311	3,107
21 Saudi Arabia	5,219	6,822	5,963	2,700
22 Singapore	2,469	3,616	1,464	2,124
23 Japan	2,022	338	116	2,095
24 Mexico	2,765	2,710	3,346	2,025
25 Israel	1,096	1,078	1,537	1,866
26 United Arab Emirates	3,283	3,265	2,954	1,827
27 Taiwan	48,996	16,415	8,598	1,723
28 Thailand	25,298	4,133	3,002	1,534
29 Brazil	874	2,049	2,975	1,159
30 Australia	4,201	3,879	2,122	1,061
31 China	50,337	14,096	3,478	681
32 Yemen	5,073	6,578	7,770	539
33 South Africa (incl. Namibia 'NA' -> 1989)	1,031	1,192	311	498
34 Lebanon	2,271	603	180	466
35 Oman	3,229	3,465	1,359	432
36 Albania	27		83	359
37 Egypt	1,526	808	1,753	350
38 North Macedonia	405	526	738	327
39 Angola	28	794	1,363	293
40 Kenya	202	195	506	292
41 Belarus	844	6,973	307	236
42 Mauritius	303	356	157	216
43 Ghana	1,525	1,782	1,575	211
44 Peru	21	-	442	211
45 Bangladesh	4,513	2,503	2,427	195
46 Algeria	1,312	371	83	192
47 Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	255			176
48 Argentina	44	24	7	146
49 Tunisia	446	171	149	134
50 Chile	507	46	23	94

Export of textile waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes
TOP 50 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	1,396,653	1,489,932	1,365,017	1,131,410
OECD	146,638	155,175	133,165	123,751
non-OECD	1,250,015	1,334,757	1,231,852	1,007,659
1 Pakistan	161,008	185,047	175,337	162,307
2 United Arab Emirates	89,148	110,965	140,136	99,396
3 Tunisia	100,426	111,914	105,759	79,556
4 India	96,062	102,956	90,479	78,033
5 Turkey	72,402	81,654	64,851	56,571
6 Cameroon	67,325	67,515	71,622	46,378
7 Togo	51,537	55,453	56,025	40,056
9 Ukraine	66,169	68,354	57,625	36,014
8 Morocco	25,376	21,495	25,038	35,770
10 Russia	46,801	48,580	42,955	34,890
11 Ghana	27,547	37,830	44,344	33,146
12 Guinea	26,899	26,026	30,194	24,536
13 Belarus	34,681	36,277	33,879	23,345
14 Benin	31,084	33,796	27,543	22,813
15 Nigeria	16,822	19,254	21,147	19,403
16 UK	36,052	33,923	29,711	21,457
17 Senegal	20,398	17,508	19,205	18,001
18 USA	8,713	8,154	9,289	18,090
19 Chile	11,685	11,677	10,337	13,190
20 Kenya	18,645	19,010	10,642	13,403
21 Niger	13,238	18,053	12,614	12,074
22 Mali	12,443	13,762	13,858	10,696
23 Oman	12,332	14,708	13,367	10,738
24 Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	9,244	9,781	10,505	10,044
25 Haiti	4,662	7,117	11,750	9,903
26 South Africa	6,461	9,004	5,354	9,254
27 Switzerland (incl. Liechtenstein 'LI' -> 1994)	9,253	11,059	11,635	8,581
29 Iraq	8,976	7,875	8,718	8,281
28 Congo	12,089	12,431	9,327	7,450
30 Burkina Faso	8,374	8,978	10,690	7,745
31 China	22,890	12,713	5,895	7,547
32 Tanzania	12,168	10,778	8,362	7,480
33 Democratic Republic of Congo	10,727	10,837	7,821	7,452
34 Lebanon	9,944	6,580	5,595	7,297
35 Djibouti	4,864	9,213	9,048	7,284
36 Angola	13,530	13,011	9,162	6,989
37 Mozambique	10,382	9,844	7,814	6,765
38 Madagascar	10,908	10,292	6,099	6,597
39 Uganda	9,695	11,005	7,956	5,760
40 Albania	8,187	7,703	6,661	5,608
41 Mauritania	5,605	7,262	6,246	5,334
42 Georgia	5,446	5,691	5,730	5,354
43 Gabon	7,102	7,377	7,325	5,077
44 Malawi	6,297	4,317	4,600	4,854
45 Gambia	6,281	5,809	5,401	4,665
46 Serbia	5,828	6,881	6,106	4,526
47 Somalia	1,501	3,654	3,993	4,352
48 Jordan	5,383	5,044	5,289	4,323
49 Zambia	5,308	5,672	3,723	3,631
50 Rwanda	4,515	3,472	3,836	3,098

Export of glass waste from the EU to non-EU countries in tonnes
TOP 40 BASED ON 2021 RANKING

Destination	2018	2019	2020	2021 Oct 1
Total	308,985	352,965	365,489	302,615
OECD	261,562	286,573	271,856	215,821
Non-OECD	47,423	66,392	93,633	86,794
1 UK	191,454	198,118	176,583	144,197
2 Switzerland	22,614	33,326	34,608	28,564
3 Norway	24,456	23,053	23,153	21,227
4 Morocco	3,838	7,162	15,347	19,410
5 Moldova	6,330	5,428	17,920	19,348
6 Turkey	11,368	22,925	30,427	16,336
7 Russia	7,245	10,497	12,070	12,145
8 Brazil	3,506	8,144	19,033	10,811
9 United Arab Emirates	22	43	8,440	8,306
10 Belarus	391	413	8,529	7,762
11 Ukraine	6,252	17,451	4,120	3,780
12 Bahrain	3,017	3,394	2,088	2,654
13 Peru	-	-	-	2,433
14 Israel	3,659	3,130	3,761	1,933
15 Chile	3,960	3,657	2,228	1,458
16 USA	2,786	2,162	872	1,209
17 Mexico	861	-	140	879
18 Melilla	-	10	45	36
19 China	150	132	100	32
20 Serbia	98	5	50	28
21 Taiwan	-	-	-	15
22 Japan	115	11	17	14
23 Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	-	8	8
24 Libya	-	-	-	5
25 Montenegro	-	25	17	4
26 Viet Nam	16	3	13	4
27 Kazakhstan	-	20	-	3
28 Canada	-	33	36	2
29 Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	6	-	-	2
30 Gibraltar	-	3	3	2
31 Andorra	3	1	-	1
32 Congo	-	-	-	1
33 Faroe Islands	-	-	-	1
34 Korea	283	137	22	1
35 New Caledonia	-	-	-	1
36 New Zealand	-	-	-	1
37 Thailand	1	314	1	1
38 South Africa (incl. Namibia 'NA' -> 1989)	15,186	11,284	4,490	1
39 India	666	1,349	774	-
40 Mauritius	9	22	1	-

