

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Safe movement of valuable secondary raw materials is integral to the circular economy.
- Shipment bans do not create a circular economy, measures that foster recovery and recycling markets in the EU do!
- Misdeclarations and smuggling of waste as used goods will not be solved with bans and restrictions.
- Criminal operators and illegal shipments tarnish the image of our sector and undermine legitimate treatment and recycling industries. Appropriate enforcement measures are needed. Better controls, traceability and cooperation among Member States are essential.
- The Waste Shipment Regulation should be the legal instrument setting the framework for safe waste transfers ensuring environmentally sound practices.

FROM WASTE TO RESOURCE

FEAD

European Waste
Management Association

SAFE & EFFICIENT WASTE SHIPMENTS DRIVE THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



✉ info@fead.be
🌐 www.fead.be



Rue de la Science 23
1040 Brussels
+32 2 732 32 13

SHIPMENTS WITHIN THE EU

- Over 90% of all waste exports destined for recovery are shipped within the borders of the EU27
- BUT we currently face
 - long and persistent delays of shipments, due to the delays of national authorities in consenting to the latter
 - bottlenecks linked to differing interpretations by authorities
- THIS MEANS, the notification procedure generates considerable time and resources for operators and authorities
- WE NEED clear and effective waste shipment rules



Waste shipments within the EU are essential for recycling, recovery and disposal operations, as facilities are becoming highly specialised and no Member State has on its territory all facilities to treat all waste streams

PRE-CONSENTED FACILITIES

Improving procedures for 'pre-consented facilities' is crucial to facilitate shipments for recycling and recovery

- Waste shipments to pre-consented facilities should become a secure yet swift path to develop the circular economy in the EU
- Waste will more easily find its way to the optimal treatment option across the EU:



More waste will be recovered and re-enter the circular economy



BUT the concept of pre-consented facilities is currently recognised by too few competent authorities

EXPORTS FROM THE EU

- Since 2019, the 'Basel ban amendment' prohibits the export of hazardous waste to non-EU, non-OECD countries
- Only 1.4% of the total waste generated in the EU was exported to non-EU countries in 2020
- Not all waste is the same!



FEAD proposes a differentiated approach for exports that distinguishes 'problematic' and 'non-problematic' waste streams

WASTE SHIPMENTS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy is based on logistical chains across the EU and around the world to reintegrate secondary raw materials from recycling where they are needed in the manufacturing process and according to the market economy

Taking the case of metals:

- Metal scraps account for about 50% of all waste exported from the EU
- Metals can be indefinitely recycled
- By avoiding the use of virgin raw materials, recycling of metals provides for large net CO₂ savings (1.65 t CO₂eq / t metal scrap)

WHAT ABOUT PLASTIC?

- COP 14 introduced new waste codes for plastics to enhance the control of the transboundary movements of plastic waste
- These new rules entered into force in 2021
- The overall trade in plastic waste diminished by approx. 14% from 2020 to 2021
- The only plastics allowed for exports outside the OECD are
 - single polymer plastic wastes
 - destined for environmentally-sound mechanical recycling
 - almost free from contamination (< 2% / weight)
- Restrictions established by some importing countries have led to a steep increase in illegal shipments of plastic waste (2020 Interpol report)