INTERPOL PCWG and LIFE SMART Waste joint Conference, Brussels 12-14 November 2019

Key current trends in pollution crime
(Where are we now?)

Per Knut Vistad, member of the PCWG board
Key current trends; what does it mean?

• "Where are we now?" it says in the agenda (Strategic Theme)
  • The old well known stuff is still a (big) part of our daily business.

• The answer might depend on where you are standing:
  • From a national point of view
  • From a regional
  • From an international
  • "From an organizational" – for instance INTERPOL

• Environmental impact (chemical substance), MO, new technology or new legislation
1 Examples: relevant national pollution crime
2 Illicit trade in chemicals
3 Carbon emission
4 Environmental toxins/micropollutants
5 Waste
6 Falsification of documents as a trend
7 Current trends - Focus of PCWG (and others)
Examples; relevant national pollution crime:

• Mining
• Fires in waste (Poland and all countries)
• Dangerous substances in products (for instance toys)
• Cases often contains falsification of documents (certificates etc)
1. Examples: relevant national pollution crime
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Illicit trade in chemicals:

• These are just examples:
  
  • Mercury (also connected to illegal mining)
  • Pesticides
  
  • In general instances where trade in substances/products are becoming illegal in one country, but not in another
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Carbon emission?:

- Biggest environmental challenge on earth
- New legislation – stricter, to make things better
- Higher prices on quotas
- Old stuff: emissions from industry
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Environmental toxins/micropollutants:

- Low biodegradability and accumulative in the food chain
- The cocktail effect is uncertain
- Relevant also to the handling of waste
- And of course traditional emissions/spills
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Waste in general:

- Problem for decades – still current
- Ee-waste, ELV, tires etc. – problem not solved
- Nothing more to say really
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Falsification of documents as a trend:

- Important part of MO in lots of cases
- Notifications and permits re waste
- Shipbreaking/rigs
- Annual reports etc.
- Administrative authorities rely on documentation – self declarations/obliged info in combination with maybe too few controls
- You can’t rely on criminals
- Should be part of criminal investigations
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Current trends - Focus of PCWG and others:

- Plastic "ban" from China (and possibly others)
- Shipbreaking/Rigs (Oil and Gas Decommissioning)
- Organised crime
- Marine pollution