



Council of the
European Union

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ENV 660
ECOFIN 815
SOC 624
COMPET 481
POLGEN 158
ENER 370
FISC 140
IND 163
CONSOM 179
STATIS 80

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 12790/1/15 ENV 613 ECOFIN 754 SOC 570 COMPET 446 POLGEN 147
ENER 348 FISC 123 IND 148 CONSOM 162 STATIS 74 REV 1

Subject: Greening of the European Semester: environmentally harmful subsidies
and implementation of environmental legislation

- Exchange of views
- = Contributions from delegations

Delegations will find in the Annex the contributions received from Ireland and Italy to the exchange of views on the above at the Council (Environment) on 26 October 2015.

IRELAND

**NIECE – Network for Ireland’s
Environmental Compliance &
Enforcement**

Department of Environment, Community and
Local Government
IRELAND



Overview

- Environmental Enforcement Authorities in Ireland.
- What is NIECE – Development and Operation.
- NIECE in the European Context.





Environmental Enforcement in Ireland

- **>50 separate authorities**
 - Government Departments
 - Local Authorities
 - State Bodies
 - Police Forces
- **>1300 staff involved**



NIECE

Network for Ireland's
Environmental Compliance
& Enforcement



Purpose of NIECE:

...to foster **co-operation** between the various agencies involved in the enforcement of environmental legislation so that a **higher and more consistent standard** of enforcement is achieved throughout the country.



NIECE

Network for Ireland's
Environmental Compliance
& Enforcement



How NIECE Operates

- Environmental Protection Agency is Chair with link to IMPEL (European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law) 
- Single Sign-in Website – www.niece.ie
 - Microsoft SharePoint
 - Online Library for Documents
 - Calendar of Events
 - Directory of Members
 - Weekly Announcements to Members
 - Working Group Pages
 - Discussion Boards, Links and Blogs



NIECE

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National Environmental Complaints Line & App

Standard National Procedure for Handling Complaints established in 2005

Managing Full Lifecycle of Complaint

National Environmental Complaints Line provides national 24/7 operator manned phone-line

App for environmental complaints

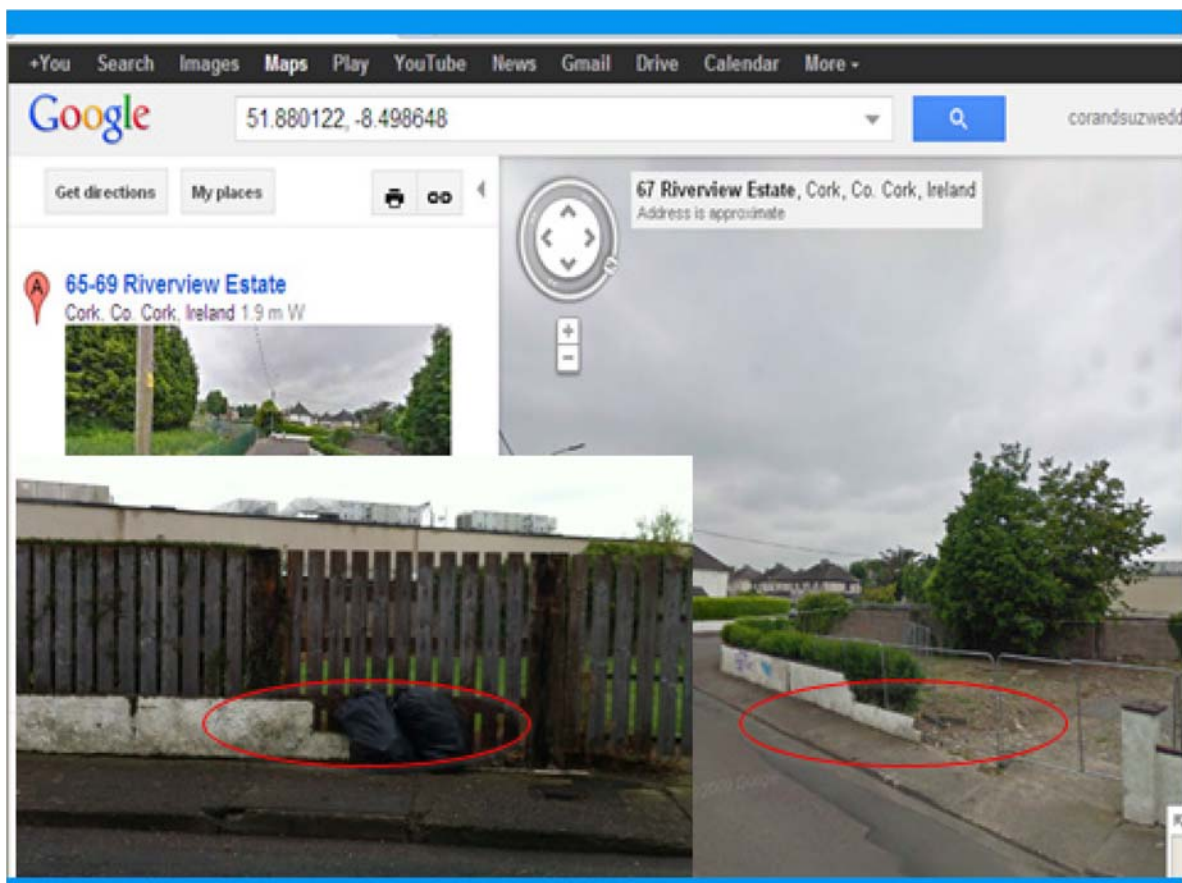
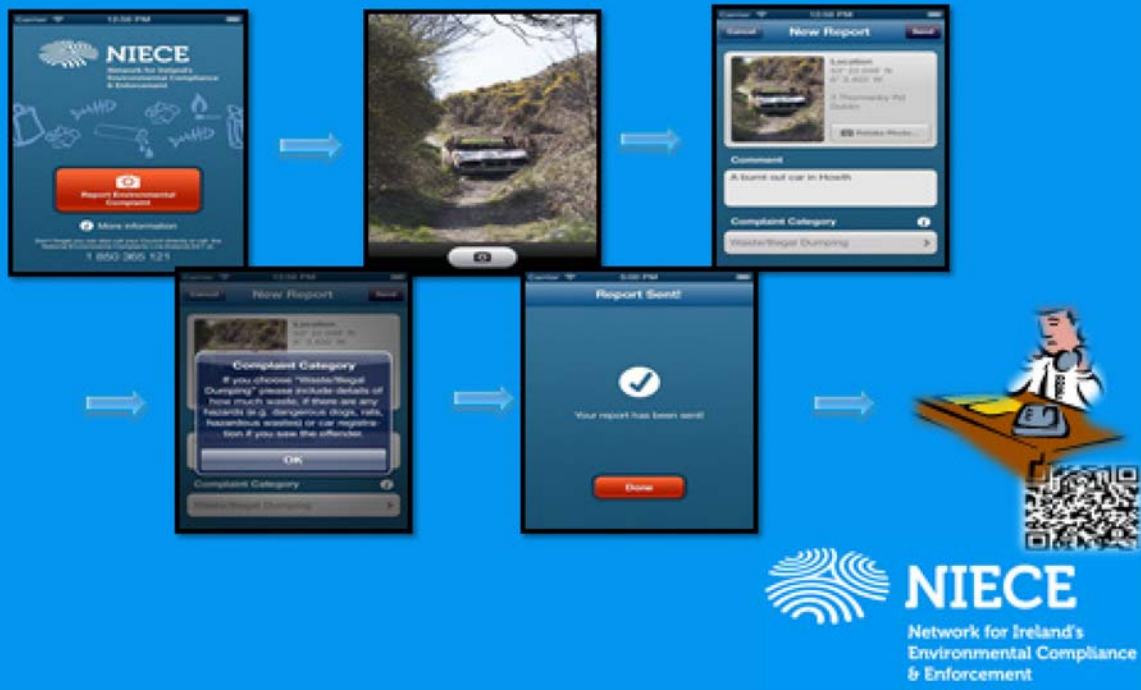


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App Operation – See it? Say it!





European Context

- Recommendation providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in Member States (2001/331/EC)
- Enforcement Plans and Reporting in place for all 31 local authorities



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Thank You



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ITALY

Italy welcomes the “Make it work” informal initiative and its goal to improve the European environmental *acquis* through continuous dialogues among the EU institutions with the opportunity to share the best practices of national implementation.

The implementation is crucial for the credibility of the environmental policies, nonetheless the enforcement alone, although useful and indispensable, is not always suitable to identify and address the root-causes of the implementation gaps as it intervenes as the very last resort.

Therefore, it would be desirable working together with the aim at understanding the reasons causing the implementing gaps thus focusing on the phase where definition of environmental policies occurs.

We clearly find that some of those gaps are certainly linked to the application of the same approach to Member States that are characterized by specificities in terms of economic and financial structure, geography and biodiversity. This suggests the importance to carefully reflect national specificities already at the stage of the definition of the environmental targets (e.g. allowing gradual implementation, where feasible, of intermediate targets or applying a distance-to-target methods).

It does not mean to water down the EU policy goals or reducing the ambition of our environmental legislation, but it does mean that we should consider the possibility to reflect national capabilities and specificities in the environmental legislation with the objective to effectively deliver the policy goals and consistently meet the environmental target we have agreed ourselves.