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**NOTE**

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From: Polish Delegation  
To: Delegations

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Subject: 8th Round of Mutual Evaluations - 'The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating Environmental Crime'  
Follow-up to the Report on Poland

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As a follow-up to each Round of Mutual evaluations, each Member State is requested to inform the General Secretariat of the Council of the actions it has taken on the recommendations given to it.

A follow-up report should be submitted within 18 months from the adoption of the evaluation report concerned.

Delegations will find in the Annex the revised follow-up report of Poland regarding the recommendations that were made in the report ST 15079/1/18 REV1 for the Eighth Round of Mutual Evaluations.

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**EIGHTH ROUND OF MUTUAL EVALUATIONS ON 'THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF EUROPEAN POLICIES ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME'**

**FOLLOW-UP TO REPORT ON POLAND**

In the context of the eighth round of Mutual Evaluations on 'the practical implementation and operation of the European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime'.

The evaluation report on **Poland** as set out in doc. 15079/1/18 REV 1, was adopted by the LEWP/COPEN WP on **13.12.2018**

We hereby submit, according the procedures set out in doc. 15538/4/15, our report on the follow-up to the recommendations made to **Poland** within the frames of the above evaluation report.

**Recommendations.**

Poland should:

1. develop the National Strategy on the fight against environmental crime, which could help in setting priorities in protecting against and fighting environmental crime more effectively and in establishing a multi-agency approach that would agree on an operational action plan to implement the strategy;

In Poland combating environmental crime is handled by a dozen specialised services, including the Police, National Revenue Administration, Inspectorates of Environmental Protection, Forest Guard, Border Guard, Municipal Guard, Road Transport Inspection and Veterinary Inspection. Currently, there are several strategies of national activities related to environmental protection, among them: "National Waste Management Plan 2022", "National Air Protection Programme 2020", with the leading one "State Environmental Policy 2030".

For the purpose of raising priority of protection against environmental crime and more effective combating of such crime, the Department of Preliminary Proceedings of the National Prosecutor's Office developed a methodology of conduct of preliminary proceedings in the scope of environmental crime, which has been communicated to all units of the prosecution service for application. The methodology includes guidance on the proceedings from the moment of receipt of the first information on occurrence of an offense until passing of final judgment before a court. The methodology also contains guidance on the need for cooperation with all the departments responsible for combating environmental crime, with the use of newly established regulations regarding participation of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate in conducting criminal proceedings. These methodological guidelines also meet the requirements set out in recommendation 2. of the report, because they detail the necessity and method of maintaining regular cooperation, not only at the central level, aimed at combating environmental crime.

The Unit for Combating Economic Crimes of the Criminal Bureau of the Police Headquarters has developed a Guide for Police officers on the conduct of procedural activities in the event of disclosure of illegal waste storage and non-compliant transport of waste. This document was made available and disseminated in local units of the Police. The intention of creating this document was to present good practices and rules of conduct for officers in the area in question. The guide is intended to be an introduction to the development of crime-fighting tactics in the area of waste management.

The Criminal Bureau of the Police Headquarters on an ongoing basis provides the training units of the Police with guidelines regarding the special supervision of the issue of combating environmental crime, in particular illegal storage of hazardous waste, and such recommendations and information in the field of combating crime harmful to the natural environment.

2. establish a permanent structure of cooperation at central level to handle the strategic plan and to provide a platform to coordinate joint efforts in fighting environmental and waste crime; (cf. 3.1, 3.2 and 3.6)

On 24 September 2019 the Chief Inspector for Environmental Protection issued Decision on the establishment of the 'Team for Fighting Environmental Crime'. Substantive supervision over the implementation of the tasks of the Team is exercised directly by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. The team's tasks include:

1. conducting and coordinating cooperation of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and the voivodship inspectorates of environmental protection with the Police, the Prosecutor's Office and other law enforcement authorities, as well as national control authorities in matters related to the prosecution of environmental crime;

2. participation in the development of guidelines, auxiliary materials, draft general directions of the Inspection, work plans of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and other materials regarding the planning of the implementation of the Inspection tasks ;

3. drafting, in cooperation with other organizational departments of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, aggregate information; lists and materials regarding the actions of the Environmental Protection Inspection in the field of prosecuting environmental crime;

4. participation in the preparation of draft laws and other related legal acts with the scope of tasks of the Team and participation in the works related to the procedure of their reconciliation;

5. substantive advice provided to the employees of the Environmental Protection Inspection (CIEP and VIEP) in the field of issues within the Team's competence;

6. organizing and conducting trainings for employees of CIEP and VIEP in the scope of the Team's competence;

7. participation in inspections carried out in voivodship inspectorates of environmental protection and control teams appointed to art. 10c of the Act of July 20, 1991 on the Environmental Protection Inspection (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1355, as amended);

8. organization of the Chief Inspector's of Environmental Protection work , in matters regarding the competence of the Team, with the authorities of the European Union Member States, competent authorities of the other countries on the basis of concluded contracts and agreements, and international organizations, including the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

On October 7, 2020, the Department for Combating Environmental Crime was established at the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, whose main task is to coordinate the activities of the Inspection in the field of combating environmental crime, supporting (including technical) activities of provincial environmental protection inspectorates in the field of disclosing and preventing crimes and offenses against environment and cooperation with law enforcement authorities.

In January 2022, an on-line platform was launched, dedicated to the coordinators of individual services in the field of environmental crime, in particular those related to combating inappropriate waste management crimes. The platform is to be used to exchange good practices between the authorities involved and to share, inter alia, current regulations, data of coordinators. Technical works related to the provision of resources for individual services are currently in progress.

Police carries out substantive tasks related to combating economic crime, including threats related to illegal storage, transport and disposal of waste, conducts and coordinates number of activities aimed at preventing these threats. As part of extensive activities, ongoing cooperation is conducted with government and self-government administration bodies in the field of waste management as well as other institutions dealing with combating threats in this area. Field units of the Police received guidelines on the procedures of conducting cases in the field of environmental crime related to illegal landfilling and fires of landfills.

The positions of CITES coordinators function with Economic Crime of the Voivodship Police Headquarters and the Capital Police Headquarters, whose task is to identify and detect crimes against wildlife and cooperation with coordinators of other services and cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

3. build up a method for collecting comprehensive and integrated statistics comprising the number of reported crimes, investigations, prosecutions and convictions, in order to obtain an overall picture of the level of waste crime in Poland; (cf. 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.6)

The Police collect detailed statistics on environmental crime, including the Penal Code and the Animal Protection Act, which are available at [www.statystyka.policja.gov.pl](http://www.statystyka.policja.gov.pl). It is planned to expand the available data to include the Nature Conservation Act. The statistical data includes the number of initiated proceedings, the number of crimes identified and crimes detected.

The Ministry of Justice collects statistical data on the functioning of the judiciary through various systems and tools on the basis of the Act of 29 June 1995 on public statistics (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 443). The main source of information on the activities of the common judiciary are statistical reports filled in by court employees on a cumulative, quarterly, semi-annual and annual basis by means of an IT system dedicated to statistical reporting. The reports are divided by areas of law and court instance. Additionally, an important source of data are statistical tables on adults sentenced for crimes penalized under the Penal Code and other special/sector laws related to the criminal law. The tables are obtained in annual cycles from the database of the National Criminal Register. These tables are very valuable sources of information on the phenomenon of crime in Poland, as they provide data in detailed sections, mainly based on the type and length of the sentence imposed in a given year, but also, inter alia, on the age, sex of the convicted person, place where the crime was committed or recidivism. Therefore, it should be noted that information on environmental crimes is collected in two ways:

- information on adults convicted of the above mentioned offences, which is collected on the basis of statistical tables from the National Criminal Register;
- information on persons judged and sentenced in first instance in regional and district courts obtained on the basis of court's reports on persons judged by the first instance court.

4. maintain the capacity of the Prosecution Service by prioritising the fight against environmental and waste crime and by making designated specialised prosecutors in this field fully operational and effective, and encourage them to play a more proactive role in that regard; (cf. 4.1 and 4.6)

During the eighth evaluation round, at the request of the Director of the Department of Preliminary Proceedings, coordinators were appointed in this regard at all Regional and Circuit Prosecutor's Offices, tasked among other things with providing support in the conduct of preliminary proceedings concerning environmental crime, data collection, allowing to determine possible subjective and objective links between various discovered crimes.

The prosecution service continues to conduct training in the scope of environmental crime. This training covers both trainee prosecutors and prosecutors. An agreement between the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection and the National Prosecutor as to the conduct of joint training in this subject matter continues in effect.

5. prioritise the fight against environmental and waste crime by all LEAs involved (incl. the police, the Customs Service and the Border Guard), e.g. by the continued development of the already existing dedicated structure within the police, in particular at central level; (cf. 4.2.1 and 4.6)

The priority was given to combating crimes against the environment and crimes in the scope of waste handling, which was expressed in the Action Plan of the Police Commander in Chief for the years 2021-2023. "Optimization of Police activities in combating key types of crime, including cybercrime" was indicated as one of the priority tasks: "Intensification of Police activities in combating crimes violating the protected natural environment."

The issue of crime against the environment in the country is under constant supervision of the Unit on Combating Economic Crime of the Criminal Bureau of the National Police Headquarters, which includes the coordination of issues at the level of subordinate garrisons. In the Voivodship Police Headquarters there are coordinators of the above mentioned issue, whose task is to recognize, prevent, disclose prohibited acts from the area in question and coordinate activities of subordinate Police units in the field of preventing and combating environmental crime, in particular concerning illegal waste management and violations of the Washington Convention on the conservation of endangered species of fauna and flora.

The Police field units receive on an ongoing basis guidelines concerning procedures for conducting cases of environmental crime. Undertakings implemented on an ongoing basis have contributed to effective prevention of illegal waste disposal practices by fraudulent entrepreneurs.

The number of detected cases of illegal dumping, storage and utilization of waste is increasing in the country, thus the actions taken have effectively prevented the negative effects of to the environment. In departments for Combating Economic Crime of the Regional Police Headquarters and in the Unit on Combating Economic Crime of the Criminal Bureau of the National Police Headquarters there are positions of coordinators of Cross-Border Shipments of Waste, CITES coordinators, and in the future it is planned to create coordinators for illegal trade in plant protection products. The coordinators' task is to conduct ongoing cooperation with representatives of other services in order to identify and detect illegal acts against the environment.

The Criminal Bureau of the Police Headquarters is regularly involved in EMPACT activities for 2022-2025 in the field of OAP's Environmental Crime priorities and maintains the Europol AP Environmental Crime analytical file. Apart from activities within EMPACT, Police is engaged in project AMBITUS, which purpose is strengthening of the operational activities of the Member States.

Moreover it is important to remark, that actions of prosecutors office consisting of a guidelines development, appointment of prosecutors - coordinators, organization of training courses, also at the central level, is evidence of granting higher priority to combating environmental crime.



6. maintain focus on frequent training for judges and prosecutors, and encourage them to undergo training focused on environmental and waste crime; (cf. 4.1.1, 4.5 and 4.6)

A high priority is maintained in the field of training judges, prosecutors and services in the field of environmental crime. Examples of ongoing training projects:

- The Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, since 2010, has been organizing trainings on the transboundary shipment of waste for representatives of the Environmental Protection Inspection, the National Revenue Administration, the Border Guard, the Road Transport Inspection, the Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office. The main topics discussed at the last meeting were changes in the TPO regulations, illegal shipment of waste in the form of vehicles, as well as construction waste from Germany, and the development of directions for changes in the area of cross-border shipment of waste. In 2019, the participation in trainings of the prosecutor's office and the Police representatives increased significantly, and the organizers make every effort to reach the largest possible audience.

- The National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution: organized a training course on environmental crimes entitled "Criminal law aspects of environmental protection" with the participation of 62 people, including 8 judges and 18 public prosecutors and prosecutor's assessors; enabled two assessors and one assistant prosecutor to participate in the following trainings: EJTN seminar from the Catalog Plus series: Environmental Law in Brussels and EU Environmental Law and EU Waste Legislation and Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law waste and environmental protection in criminal law) in Trier, and organized a series of 24 training courses for judges and prosecutors under the title Environmental protection law for judicial personnel.

In order to increase the effectiveness of control and penal activities, as well as preventive and educational activities, an agreement was signed between the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and the University of Justice regarding the cooperation of both units in research and teaching activities. The main element of the cooperation will be the creation of a new postgraduate course in "Ecocrimology" in the field of social sciences and natural and technical sciences. These studies will be dedicated to, inter alia, representatives of services and inspections cooperating in the field of combating environmental crime, and will enable the broadening of the knowledge of the Inspectorate of Environmental Protection.

7. consider revising the Act on the liability of collective entities for prohibited acts under penalty, with a view to combating the illegal use of legal entities for the purpose of committing environmental and waste crime more effectively; (cf. 5.1.1 and 5.5)

Advanced legislative work is currently underway on the draft act amending certain acts in order to counteract environmental crime. The project developed by the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection is currently subject to opinion within the government legislative process. The proposed legislative act is aimed at strengthening the protection of the natural environment against harmful activities which constitute crimes or offenses against the environment. The planned regulations also include changes to the provisions of the Act of October 28, 2002 on the liability of collective entities for acts prohibited under penalty and a crime penalized in Art. 183 of the Criminal Code on waste.

The draft act provides for the following solutions in the field of liability of collective entities that meet the recommendations set out in the report on the practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime in Poland:

- 1) It is proposed to abandon the structure of collective entity liability based on a preliminary ruling in relation to environmental offenses listed in Art. 16 of the Act on Collective Entities (by adding Art. 4a to the Act on Liability of Collective Entities). It should be noted that Art. 4a is a *lex specialis* in relation to Art. 4 of the Act. Until now, the possibility of bringing a collective entity to justice has always been dependent on a prior conviction, conditional discontinuation of proceedings or a decision granting that person a permit to voluntarily submit to liability or a court decision to discontinue proceedings against it due to circumstances excluding the punishment of the perpetrator (Article 4 of the Act).

- 2) In the added art. 7a of the act on liability of collective entities, it is proposed to eliminate the limitation of the amount of fines by resigning from linking the amount of the fine to the amount of income of a given collective entity. Pursuant to the proposed provision, the court shall order a fine in the amount of PLN 10,000 to PLN 5,000,000 against the collective entity. This amount of the penalty also means increasing the threshold for the threat of a fine to PLN 10,000, because in accordance with the currently binding Art. 7 of the Act on Collective Entities, the amount of the fine that may be imposed ranges from PLN 1,000 to PLN 5,000,000, however, it may not exceed 3% of the revenue earned by the collective entity in the financial year in which the prohibited act was committed.
- 3) In art. 16 in section 1 in point 8, letter a and of the Act, it is proposed to extend the reference in general to the provisions set out in Chapter XXII of the Penal Code. This means that the collective entity will be liable under the Act, if the person referred to in Art. 3, commits any crime against the environment stipulated in the Penal Code. The provisions of the act on liability of collective entities currently in force do not refer to Art. 185 of the Penal Code providing for sanctions for the types of qualified crimes against the environment. Therefore, the proposed regulation prevents significant legislative omissions.

In the field of handling with the waste offenses, the draft act provides for stricter penalties, inter alia, for the processing, recovery, transport of waste that threatens human life or health or the quality of the environment, and the import and export of hazardous waste without the required notification or permit.

8. enhance the flow of information between the relevant authorities involved in combating environmental crime, so that the information received results in more cohesive actions being taken; (cf. 6.4.3, 6.5 and 7.3)

Act of 20 July 2018 amending the Act on the Environmental Protection Inspection and some other laws that have entered into force except for some provisions on 1st January 2019 introduced new legal regulations. The main purpose of the Act was to guarantee the ecological safety of citizens by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of implementing the statutory tasks of the Inspection in particular activities related to monitoring (which are also the fulfilment of EU obligations) conducting inspections in the scope of using the environment by entrepreneurs and the work of research laboratories.

Articles of the Environmental Protection Inspection Act implements the recommendations regarding increasing the flow of information between authorities involved in combating environmental crime. According to the Act, Inspection of Environmental Protection authorities may request any administrative bodies or Police to provide information or access to documents and data related to environmental protection and these authorities or Police are obliged to provide information, documents and data immediately, not later than within 14 days of submitting the application.

The introduced provisions allow access to documentation of cases conducted by law enforcement authorities in the field of illegal shipments of waste. Faster completion of case files accelerates the issuing of a settlement in a given case. In each case when the evidence available to the CIEP is insufficient to issue a decision, the CIEP requests the files of a given proceedings conducted by law enforcement authorities. In light of the new provisions the law enforcement authorities provide documentation of the case. Evidence received under the new regulations contributes to faster identification of entities responsible for illegal waste shipments and thus to ending a given case.

In addition, according to the new Articles of the Act on the Inspection of Environmental Protection a Voivodship Inspector of Environmental Protection may apply to the Police or public administration bodies including the National Tax Administration, the Road Transport Inspection, Mining Supervision Offices, the National Labour Inspection, the Trade Inspection, the State Sanitary Inspection, the Veterinary Inspection, State Inspectorate for Plant Protection and Seed Production, Border Guards, State Fire Service for assistance, if it is necessary to carry out control activities.

The Act of 6 July 2001 on the processing of criminal information defines the rules for proceeding with the processing of criminal information for the purpose of detecting and prosecuting perpetrators of crime as well as preventing and combating crime, as well as entities competent in these matters. In addition, it sets out the rules for processing criminal information for use in detecting and prosecuting perpetrators of crime, as well as preventing and combating crime. Thus, the Border Guard, the Police and the Environmental Protection Inspection have the basis for exchanging criminal information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the services concerned (e.g. the Police, the Border Guard), in accordance with their competences, may conclude relevant agreements regulating cooperation and exchange of information with other entities involved in combating this type of crime, including the Environmental Protection Inspection.

It is worth emphasizing that the bodies of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate may request any public administration authority or the Police to provide information or provide documents and data related to environmental protection.

At the central level, on August 31, 2021, an Agreement was concluded between the Police Commander in Chief and the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection on cooperation in preventing and detecting environmental crimes and offenses. In addition, on January 24, 2022, an Agreement was concluded between the Chief Plant Health and Seed Inspectorate and the Police Commander in Chief on the cooperation of the Police with the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service. The above-mentioned agreements include the scope of cooperation of the above-mentioned institutions with the Police at the central level, which made it possible to tighten the cooperation of local units in combating environmental crime, in accordance with the competences of individual authorities.

The flow of information between the relevant authorities involved in combating environmental crimes at the level of the Border Guard is carried out, inter alia, by based on the agreement between the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection, the Head of the Customs Service and the Chief Commander of the Border Guard on cooperation in the field of international shipment of waste. Pursuant to the aforementioned agreement, the cooperation includes, inter alia, on mutual assistance in performing control activities, including carrying out joint controls with the participation of representatives of the bodies of the Environmental Protection Inspection, the Customs and Tax Service and the Border Guard, as well as the exchange of information and experiences. Environmental protection inspectors, at the request of Border Guard officers, perform, inter alia, assessment of goods that may constitute waste. At the same time, in the event of a justified suspicion of illegal international shipment of waste, Border Guard officers provide relevant information on a specific form to the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. Moreover, the Border Guard has procedures in place that oblige the relevant services and authorities to be informed in the event of an illegal international shipment of waste, depending on the type of procedure being conducted.

Recently, the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection has been added to the Electronic Transport Supervision System run by the National Revenue Administration. From February 22, import to Poland and transit through Poland of all types of waste are subject to registration in the SENT system. The Journal of Laws published the Regulation of the Minister of Finance of January 25, 2022 amending the regulation on goods whose transport is covered by the system of monitoring road and rail transport of goods and heating fuel trading, which is an amendment to the implementing provisions to the Act of March 9, 2017 on the system monitoring the transport of goods by road and rail.

In order to better coordinate and cooperate between administrative bodies and law enforcement bodies, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate also organizes conferences aimed at exchanging experiences and information. The last conference "Environmental crime - contemporary challenges for law enforcement agencies and the Inspection of Environmental Protection" was organized, inter alia, on April 15, 2021, it enjoyed great popularity among both speakers and viewers. It presented information on the functioning of the bodies responsible for detecting and counteracting environmental crime, and there was a discussion on identifying further areas of institutional development in this area.

9. strengthen target-focused controls both at borders and identified crucial points (such as waste producers/landfills, etc.) by conducting more focused risk analyses, use of guidelines, and checking of shipments during the entire life-cycle of waste; (cf. 5.1.2, 7.2.1 and 7.3)

In order to intensify the activities of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, a task force dedicated to counteracting and detecting environmental crimes was established in each voivodship environmental protection inspectorate. The groups conduct both independent activities and cooperate with law enforcement agencies, e.g. by participating in investigative teams appointed by prosecutors. The groups, in addition to people with experience and knowledge in the field of environmental protection, also include people with many years of experience gained while working in uniformed services. Thanks to weekly reports on actions taken and planned to be taken in the field of combating environmental crime, the Department for Combating Environmental Crime of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection established a database of entities against which actions are carried out by provincial environmental protection inspectors, which facilitates the analysis of connections and estimation of the scale of given criminal phenomena.

The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in the guidelines for the activities of the Inspection for the years 2019 and 2020 in the section Cross-border Waste Shipment as a priority for the activities of Voivodship Inspectors of Environmental Protection included:

1. Conducting control of the shipments of waste including hazardous waste in particular by inspections of installations generating or processing this waste.

2. Implementation of joint control actions including participation in IMPEL Waste & TFS projects and cooperation with the National Tax Administration, Border Guard, Road Transport Inspection and Police in preventing illegal shipments of waste, including the assessment of transported goods in terms of their classification as waste.

3. Taking actions to detect environmental crime in the field of international shipment of waste.

Statistics on detected cases of illegal shipments of waste indicate for a marked increase in the detection of illegal shipments of waste after entry into force of the provisions of the Act amending the Act on the Inspection of Environmental Protection. In 2019 there was an approx. 140% increase in the detection rate of the cases of illegal shipment of waste. Moreover it is worth pointing out that since 2018 a change in the nature of detected cases of illegal shipment of waste has been observed. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of cases detected during inspection of companies or inspections of the area where waste imported from abroad is already in Poland. Previously most illegal shipments were detected during inspections on roads or in seaports.

The change in the nature of the detected illegal cases intensified after the entry into force of the new provisions in the Act on Inspection of Environmental Protection. This enables to detect significant amounts of waste illegally shipped from abroad often stored in Poland contrary to the regulations. Then this wastes are sent to the country of dispatch or processed in accordance with applicable regulations.



As part of the tasks carried out by the "Team for Combating Crime Against the Environment", coordinators for combating environmental crimes in the Provincial Environmental Protection Inspectorates were introduced and the national action STOP ILLEGAL WASTE was launched. On October 8, 2019, the first edition of the action was held, consisting in controlling the shipment of illegal waste in Poland. The aim of the action was to combat illegal transport and abandonment of waste, and to strengthen communication and the capacity of law enforcement and control authorities to combat environmental crime. The Police were invited to participate in the action, with whom permanent cooperation was established. Joint actions consisted in intensifying the control of illegal waste shipment, storage, dumping of waste, and control of shipment routes by joint mobile patrols of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate and the Police. A total of 260 vehicles were inspected, during the action irregularities were found, such as the lack of the required notification in the Waste Database, the lack of a waste transfer card and incorrect vehicle labeling. 170 inspectors and police officers took part in the action. The activities contributed to increasing the effectiveness of combating crimes in the area of environmental pollution with illegal waste.

On October 17, 2019, the Team for Combating Crime Against the Environment organized a workshop for 60 environmental protection inspectors on the tactics of combating environmental crime. During the training, crimes in the field of waste management and problems that arise during the fight against environmental crimes were discussed. The training was conducted in the form of workshops. Police officers from departments dealing with economic crime and corruption participated in it as experts.

From February 26 to 27, 2020, workshops were organized for 70 provincial coordinators for environmental crimes, the Police, Provincial Inspectors for Environmental Protection and the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. The aim of the workshop was to discuss actions to improve the effectiveness of combating environmental crime and actions related to improving outcomes and cooperation. The workshops contributed to raising awareness and exchanging best practices in combating environmental crime. During the workshops, the principles of cooperation between the services during the nationwide STOP ILLEGAL WASTE campaign were prepared and discussed.

On March 4, 2020, the second edition of operational activities was organized under the name STOP ILLEGAL WASTE, consisting in controlling the shipment of illegal waste in Poland. The Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection invited the Police and the Chief Inspector of Road Transport to participate in these activities. The activities included intensification of the control of illegal transport, storage and abandonment of waste, and the control of waste transport routes carried out by the Environmental Protection Inspection, the Police and the Road Transport Inspection. 717 officers and inspectors from all over the country participated in this action.

On September 8, 2021, the third edition of the nationwide preventive control of waste shipments "ILLEGAL WASTE 2021" was organized. The activities were attended by Environmental Protection Inspectors and officers of the Police, Road Transport Inspection, National Revenue Administration and Border Guard. On the day of the inauguration of the action, a total of 1,195 people performing inspection activities were involved, and 1,039 waste vehicles were inspected, of which 13 did it illegally. These activities are still continued (also at night), and in 2022 they will be one of the priority activities of the Institute of Environmental Protection. As part of the action, a total of 5,215 vehicles were inspected in 2021, of which 1,461 transported waste. As a result of the action, 25 illegal shipments of waste within the territory of the country and 13 cases of illegal cross-border shipment of waste were discovered. 13 vehicles were directed to police car parks. In total, 1986 officers of the Police, Road Transport Inspection, National Revenue Administration, Border Guard and VIEP inspectors were involved in the action. 254 checkpoints were established with the participation of the Institute of Environmental Protection.

An important initiative was the launch of an electronic "report an intervention" form on the website of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection. The purpose of the form is to promote the reporting of worrying situations related to waste, taking place in the vicinity of residents, among others a sudden increase in truck transports arriving at the property located far from dense residential buildings, abandoned waste in a nearby forest, storage of various types of barrels and containers. The report can be added anonymously. Since June 2021, 1,013 notifications have been submitted, of which 585 were related to waste, 203 to air, water or earth pollutants, and 65 related to other environmental components. So far, 282 entries have been confirmed.