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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 27 March 2025 Transboundary shipment of waste - improving accessibility of information for competent authorities and control bodies, including in cases of illegal shipment of waste – Information from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia

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Czechia, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia are currently facing a growing number of cases of illegal waste shipment, which represent a serious threat to the environment and a violation of legislative obligations. This problem requires an effective solution, also at EU level.

Experience in dealing with these cases shows that national competent authorities often do not have all the necessary information, in particular on sanctions imposed on companies involved in illegal shipments of waste in other Member States. The absence of this information makes prevention difficult and leads to situations where the problem is addressed only at the stage of repatriation of illegally shipped waste. This results in financial burden and administrative complications. In line with the precautionary principle, we therefore consider it appropriate for information on imposed fines to be shared across Member States, and for Member States where illegal waste shipment is intercepted, to be automatically informed about how the case has been resolved.

**Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 on shipments of waste** introduces a modernisation of control procedures and implements **electronic submission of shipment notifications via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)**. This system should be set up to allow more efficient information sharing between Member States in case of detected illegal shipments. In particular, it should be linked to the sanctions databases to allow for faster identification of high-risk operators.

To effectively curb illegal shipments of waste, it is essential to strengthen **cooperation between Member States on data sharing and control mechanisms**. Insufficient coordination not only increases environmental risks but also leads to financial losses and administrative burden.

**A simpler identification of the competent authorities of the respective Member States would contribute to more effective information exchange.** In our experience, assigning one single authority per Member State typically leads to better and faster exchange of information resulting in reduction of illegal shipments, minimisation of environmental damage and strengthening of the enforcement of waste management legislation.

We therefore invite the European Commission to ensure that, in the preparation and subsequent operation of the EDI system, sufficient efforts are directed towards control mechanisms, data sharing and access to all relevant information for Member States' competent authorities and control bodies.

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