



4 NETWORKS DAY

Together in the fight against environmental crime

Date: 21 May 2021
Time: 09:00 - 12:30 | 13:30 - 16:15 CET
Location: online, hosted by LIFE+ SATEC

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4 Networks Day

EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

International cooperation and alignment are very important when it comes to enforcement of EU environmental law. To improve the collaboration and alignment of enforcement, it is essential that enforcers have structural, personal and frequent contact moments where they can strengthen their network, exchange experiences and best practices, discuss ongoing cases and align their enforcement activities together.

The overall goal of the 4 Networks day is to bring all relevant parties together to debate joint efforts to fight environmental crime: Together in the fight against environmental crime.

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Joint Statement of the 4 Networks

On the occasion of the 4 Networks Day:
“Together in the fight against environmental crime”

21 May 2021

On Friday 21 May 2021 more than 150 judges, prosecutors, environmental enforcement authorities, police officers and EC officials attended the first virtual 4 Networks Day,

“Together in the fight against environmental crime”.

After two successful joint conferences in 2016 in Utrecht (NL) and in 2017 in Oxford (UK), IMPEL, EnviCrimeNet, ENPE, and EUFJE organised this virtual event with the support of LIFE+ SATEC Project, to bring together specialised practitioners involved in fighting environmental crime.

The overall **aim** of the 4 Networks events is **to improve enforcement of environmental law and to join forces by bringing regulators, inspectors, police officers, prosecutors and judges together**. Even if the work of police, prosecutors and judges focusses more immediately on fighting environmental crime, trust and understanding amongst all actors of the compliance chain is a prerequisite for successful collaboration at the level of practitioners, and an important way to achieve this, is active networking.

The 4 Networks day concentrated on **two key topics**:

- the **revision of the Directive 2008/99/EC on environmental crime (“ECD”)**, and;
- the next **EU multi-annual Policy Cycle to tackle Organised and Serious International Crime (2022-2025)**.

In the afternoon, participants debated in 5 parallel, case-oriented workshops on the evaluation of ecological damages in court (BIOVAL), Shipment of Waste Enforcement Actions (SWEAP), Illegal plastic waste shipment, Wildlife crime, F-gasses and biodiesel fraud.

The 4 Networks Day has led to **2 Statements of the 4 Networks** on the abovementioned key topics. These statements are attached to this Joint Statement.

The main conclusions the 4 Networks want to highlight are the following:

1. There is still a **lack of prioritisation for fighting environmental crime, a lack of reliable data and a lack of adequate human resources and equipment** across the entire enforcement chain. We should improve data exchange on cases and sanctions both at national and European level.
2. Environmental cases should be handled by specialised police officers, inspectors, prosecutors and judges. The **specialisation** of the actors of the enforcement chain should be anchored into the law.



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3. **Training** of police, inspectors and prosecutors and judges is crucial. Training is only effective when it comes with structural specialisation.
4. Environmental crime is serious, transboundary and often organised. To fight it better, efficient national, regional and **international cooperation** is necessary.
5. Effective implementation of the ECD requires **more coherence and more coordination between administrative and criminal sanctioning tracks**, including punitive and remedial sanctioning possibilities, communication and information transmission rules.
6. Environmental crime is neither “victimless” nor of minor significance. Environmental crime constitutes a **threat for human health and the prospects of future generations, as well as for international and EU internal security**.
7. Environmental crime in the broad sense should be included as a **priority in the next EU Policy Cycle** to Tackle Organised and Serious International Crime.

The 4 Networks Day is a Green Week Partner Event. The [EU Green Week](#) (1-4 June 2021) will be dedicated to the “zero pollution ambition”, which also implies better environmental enforcement.

The two Statements of the Networks will be brought to the attention of the EU institutions during the Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum on 2 June 2021, during the Green Week and will be sent to the institutions with competence in each matter (European Commission and EU Council).

Kristina Rabe, Chair of IMPEL

Miguel Angel Godoy, Chair of EnviCrimeNet

Miguel Ángel Godoy

Miguel Ángel Godoy (Jun 1, 2021 09:36 GMT+2)

Anne Brosnan, President of ENPE

A Brosnan

A Brosnan (Jun 1, 2021 08:24 GMT+1)

Luc Lavrysen, President of EUFJE

Luc Lavrysen

Luc Lavrysen (May 31, 2021 12:34 GMT+2)



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Websites/Contacts:

- *European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law* IMPEL | www.impel.eu | fotini.stamati@impel.eu
- *Network of Police Officers Focusing on Tackling Environmental Crime* EnviCrimeNet | www.envicrimenet.eu | magodoy@guardiacivil.es or jose-antonio.alfaro-moreno@europol.europa.eu
- *European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment* ENPE | www.environmentalprosecutors.eu | shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk
- *European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment* EUFJE | www.eufje.org | Farah.bouquelle@eufje.org



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