

European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment

Réseau des Procureurs Européens pour l'environnement



ENPE newsletter - Issue 26

26 June 2026

Message from ENPE President Rob de Rijck

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce this latest 26th edition of our ENPE newsletter at a time of very warm weather. We hope that it will bring new hope in spite of so many challenges faced by us all in these uncertain times.



We want to start by first paying respect once more to our friend and colleague **Dr Antonio Vercher Noguera**, ENPE Board member and President of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) and Deputy Attorney General for the Protection of Environment & Head of the Public Prosecutor's Office on Environment and Land Planning for Spain, who very sadly and suddenly passed away on the 12 of April 2026.

His dedication and enthusiasm to protect the environment were unmatched and we shall miss him hugely. Furthermore, as a colleague he was supportive and generous, always willing to impart wisdom on prosecutorial matters gained from his many years of successful environmental enforcement.

His influence on European Policy was also significant and indeed, our colleagues at the European Commission expressed their sincere condolences for *"an important and valuable*

partner, supporting and significantly contributing to many initiatives related to enforcement of EU environmental law."

It was a genuine shock to 'app' with him on Thursday and be informed on the next Monday that he had passed away, We shall truly miss you, Antonio, and we offer our thoughts and full support to your family, friends and all who knew you.

We continue, through our expanding ENPE network, to provide support to our members, partners and stakeholders with our focus very firmly set on supporting the transposition and implementation of the EU Environmental Crime Directive (ECD) [2024/1203](#). In addition to the ENPE contributions to the IMPEL-



led Environmental Compliance Assurance/ECD project's weekly webinars, we recently organized and

hosted a facilitated workshop to start shaping a template for National Strategies for combating environmental crime, as required by Article 21 of the ECD. With 9 delegates from 7 countries from all four corners of Europe in attendance, it was a very productive and busy day at our new ENPE registered office, Impact House, Brussels (see above photo from the workshop).



We look forward to sharing our findings very soon and are confident that we can provide support to environmental enforcement specialists in their work in this important area.

We were also pleased to jointly host a workshop on environmental crime with the Eurojust Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project in Zagreb, Croatia from 20-21 May. ENPE member organisations provided several presentations on waste enforcement cases involving transnational co-operation and collaborations with different enforcing organisations, as well as tools and techniques to strengthen prosecution in this area, generally. More details are included in the article below.

Elsewhere, we have attended several meetings and events organised by our colleagues in other organisations with the common aim of improving environmental crime prosecution. In January, Rob attended the first High Level Advisory Board (HLAB) meeting of the ENCORE project in Siracusa, Sicily, which seeks to tackle corruption in pollution crimes. More details are included below, and it was great to see our friend and colleague Lt. Col. Ondrej Koporec, Chair of EnviCrimeNet, also in attendance (the meeting venue is pictured above left). This collaborative working, as we know from experience, is always the best way to tackle these complex and multi-faceted environmental challenges and we are sure the project will be a success.

We were also pleased to participate in a workshop discussing China's new Ecological and Environmental code, an important development for global environmental security and strengthening our links with environmental enforcement colleagues in China. ENPE specialists have also delivered training at ERA events online and in Bucharest, and attended two recent workshops, one on the application of the [BIOVAL](#) tool to different habitats and another focussed on the strengthening waste trade integrity organised by our colleagues at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). As usual, to finish, we have included some interesting cases for your information with the focus, as is often the case, on waste crime. Happy Reading, and Best Wishes from Rob de Rijck, ENPE President & Shaun Robinson, ENPE Project Manager.

[photos: A Vercher Noguera; M Makic & R de Rijck, with permission from the Siracusa Institute of International Law & Human Rights]

Strengthening the fight against environmental crime by enhancing cross-regional judicial cooperation among Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership countries, and EU Member States; Zagreb, Croatia; 20-21 May 2026.



ENPE, together with the Eurojust-implemented Western Balkans Criminal Justice Project (WBCJ) organised and hosted a regional conference on environmental crime in Zagreb from the 20-21 May 2026 that brought together 37 prosecutors from Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Ireland, Kosovo*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, alongside experts from Eurojust,

ENPE, Italian Carabinieri and the Council of Europe.

The Croatian Minister for Environment, Mrs. Marija Vučković opened proceedings encouraging delegates to fully use the opportunity of such a variety of topics offered and countries presented.

Relevant topics of focus were discussed in detail in break-out sessions with the collated conclusions presented in plenary session at the end of the day. Rob de Rijck led the group examining the new Environmental Crime Directive, (EU) 2024/1203 and how this will strengthen the fight against environmental crime.

On the second day of the workshop, delegates were shown an example of illegal waste



storage at a site outside Zagreb where hazardous waste had been trafficked and stored illegally in close proximity to residential areas, pictured above.

We heard in detail how the Croatian environmental authorities were working in an effective and co-ordinated manner to ensure effective enforcement and remediation at the site [photos: Eurojust, S Robinson & R de Rijck].



Both days provided very clear examples that all regions represented face similar problems, namely:

- **Trafficking of waste and illegal logging** representing a large part of environmental crimes in WB, EaP and EU;
- The need of **specialised equipment, laboratories and expertise** to ensure that crimes are investigated in a secure manner without endangering health of the population and of the investigators/prosecutors in charge of the case remain a challenge in many countries;
- Length of the investigation require the implementation of urgent measures to reduce at maximum the risk for the environment and health. Such measures are sometimes not taken promptly enough, due to the low prioritisation of environmental crime cases;
- **Inter-institutional cooperation** including with **customs, inspection services** and **law enforcement** is a key factor for successes: national authorities should make full use of available platforms, and task forces available to coordinate cases effectively.

All available presentations can be downloaded here: <https://www.swisstransfer.com/d/39c8fe43-02eb-4c6e-8137-ce52760c6af9>. [link and summary points used in this article courtesy of Eurojust].

Report on Participation in the UNODC–UNEP Event “No Time to Waste: Strengthening Waste Trade Integrity for Circular Economy and Security” Brussels, 21 April 2026.

Our ENPE Permanent Representative for the Republic of Moldova, Dr Armen Oganesean, together with **Rob de Rijck** were among many delegates participating in the UNODC-UNEP event “**No Time to Waste: Strengthening Waste Trade Integrity for the Circular Economy and Security**” held in Brussels on the 21 of April 2026. Professor Tanya Wyatt, Lead Researcher on Crimes that Affect the Environment, UNODC and a corresponding member of the ENPE Waste & Illegal Pesticides Working Group was one of the organisers and presented key findings of UNODC’s Waste Crime and Trafficking report.



Armen provided the following summary of his participation:

“This was highly valuable from both a professional and institutional perspective, as the discussions addressed current and emerging risks linked to waste crime, illegal waste trafficking, environmental harm, corruption, and the broader need to strengthen integrity in the waste trade chain. The event brought together a wide range of participants, including policy-makers, prosecutors, law enforcement authorities, international organizations, environmental experts, and private sector representatives. According to the agenda, speakers and contributors

included representatives from UNODC, UNEP, Europol, the European Commission, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Convention Secretariat, the National Forensic Laboratory of Finland, the Spanish Guardia Civil, and Suez Group. This multidisciplinary composition made the event particularly useful, as it allowed participants to examine the issue from enforcement, policy, regulatory, forensic, and industry perspectives.

One of the main lessons I took from the event is that waste crime is no longer a marginal environmental issue, but a serious transnational criminal and governance challenge. The discussions highlighted that organized criminal groups increasingly exploit weaknesses in the waste sector, using illegal shipments, falsified documentation, regulatory gaps, and weak oversight mechanisms to generate profit. These practices not only damage the environment and public health, but also create serious risks of corruption, illicit financial flows, and distortion of lawful markets. Another important takeaway was the strong link between waste trade integrity and the circular economy agenda. For me as a prosecutor, the event was especially important because it reinforced the need for specialized prosecutorial attention to environmental crime and its corruption-related dimensions. It also provided useful comparative insights, practical examples, and strategic reflections relevant for future cooperation at both European and national levels.”

Many thanks to Armen for this helpful and comprehensive report of the event. He is pictured above with Rob.
[photo credit: A Oganesean]

ENPE AISBL news

Membership update

We welcome new ENPE Supporting Members **Eithne Leahy**, from the **Irish Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**, and **Djordjica Djordjevic**, of the **Basic Public Prosecutors Office, Vranje, Serbia**. We are pleased to see our network growing and look forward to working with both Eithne and Djurdjica, going forward.

ENPE Board meetings and Annual General Meeting - 17 June 2026

We held our most recent two **ENPE Board meetings** on the **26 March 2026** as a hybrid event at the ENPE registered office, Impact House, Brussels and on the **11 June 2026** as an online-only meeting. Both were fruitful meetings, each with a full agenda covering all aspects of our operations and planning at this busy time. Minutes will be available via the ENPE website in due course.

The **ENPE Annual General Meeting (AGM)** was held on the **17 June 2026**, as a hybrid event with both ‘in person’ attendance at our registered office and online. Officer reports were shared, along with voting on the standing items including relating to annual fees and sharing our plans for the next period of activity until the end of 2027.

News from the European Commission

Our colleagues at the European Commission Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV) continue with their support to Member States and stakeholders through the Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum. This forum held its 10th meeting on the 19th of June 2026 online,



where the European environmental enforcement networks, including ENPE, updated on progress in their work in this area. ENPE, represented by Rob de Rijck, presented on our activities in general and on the work for the implementation of the new Environmental Crime Directive, in particular.

ENPE training, outreach & capacity building

Since our last newsletter, our ENPE board members have been busy working with our colleagues at the European Academy of Law – ERA – delivering training at their events both in person and online as part of our collaboration in assisting prosecutors and judges across Europe improve their understanding of European Environmental legislation [image credit:ERA].



ENPE Secretary General, Anne Brosnan provided training on prosecuting waste crime in December

online, and in person, together with ENPE Board member and co-Chair of the Waste & Illegal Pesticides Working Group, Kateřina Weisssova, on wider environmental crime at the ERA training event in Prague, Czech Republic from 25-27 May 2026.

In the meantime, Prof Remus Jurj delivered training on air quality and noise enforcement at the ERA Bucharest training workshop from 12-13 May 2026. The programme continues into the Summer with further events planned in June and July 2026.

Chinese Supreme People's Procuratorate Symposium - The Role of Prosecutors in Global Governance 08-10 June 2026

Anne Brosnan, Chief Prosecutor at the Environment Agency and ENPE Secretary General visited China earlier this month at the invitation the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) to attend a high-level symposium on The Role of Prosecutors in Global Environmental Governance.

This subject, which was introduced by Mr Zhang Xueqiao, the Deputy Prosecutor General of China is of great interest to all prosecutors as we seek to make a difference to environmental protection. A number of international experts attended, including a delegation from South America led by the Deputy Prosecutor General of Brazil.



The symposium discussed the important role of prosecutors in securing environmental compliance in China

through Public Interest Litigation and was facilitated by our colleagues at Client Earth, Mr Dimitri de Boer and Ms Mengxing Liu. Dimitri and Mengxing, pictured above with some of the invited speakers, have led a delegation from the SPP to a number of ENPE and 4 Networks Conferences in the past, including to Oxford and the Hague and this has helped to foster and develop understanding around shared issues.



Anne then attended a conference organised by the Chinese Society of Environmental and Resources Law on China's new Ecological and Environmental Code and the Global Environmental Rule of Law.

The conference discussed the rule of law as regards environmental issues and the newly published Ecological and Environmental Code in China. This document is a huge step forward in bringing environmental law to the forefront of Chinese society and securing better protection for the environmental and action against climate change.

Ancillary to these events in Beijing, Anne and other international guests were invited by the University of Wuhan to attend a workshop on Global Climate Governance and the new Eco-Environmental Code and visited the Wuhan Carbon Trading Centre.

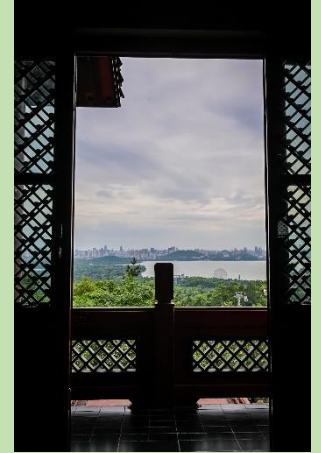


Wuhan University is the cradle of environmental law in China and our good friend and colleague Professor Luc Lavrysen has forged a relationship with the Research Institute of Environmental Law (RIEL) there over a 20-year period. A particular highlight was the address of Judge Madam Sun Quian, the Presiding Judge of the Environmental Tribunal of the Supreme Court of China on the Application of Principles of International Environment Law in China's Climate Change Litigation and Development Trends.

On the trip Anne was pleased to meet Mr Adam Weiss, Chief Programmes Officer of Client Earth and Mr Adam Slater the newly appointed CEO of AELERT, the



Australasian environmental regulators network. We met many Chinese colleagues working on the same issues as ourselves and recognised the need for all to play their part particularly as regards climate change. Highlights of the trip included a visit to the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the visit to the Wuhan Carbon Trading Centre, a spectacular illuminated evening river front walk in Wuhan and a trip to the Great Wall of China.



Thanks again to our colleagues at Client Earth for organising such an informative programme of events. [photos: A Brosnan and Prof Lorenzo Squintani]

International news - environmental crime enforcement

United State Department of Justice ENRD bulletins

As a standing item in our newsletter, the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) has helpfully set up a compendium of cases and articles available via their website: [Environment and Natural Resources Division | Environmental Crimes Bulletins | United States Department of Justice](#) where you can sign up for their regular bulletins and access previous issues. Our thanks go to Joe Poux and the US DoJ for making this information so readily accessible.

Argentine Network of Environmental Prosecutors Offices (RAFA) – commitment to environmental protection

Our colleagues at the Argentine Network of Environmental Prosecutors' Offices (RAFA), recently released an institutional video in which prosecutors from different jurisdictions of the country reaffirmed their commitment to environmental protection and highlighted the role played by the Public Prosecutor's Offices in the defence of the general interests of society. Please see the links below for more information”:

<https://www.instagram.com/rafambientales?igsh=MWo1c21tNXZtcGVpOQ==>

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/sociedad/los-fiscales-ambientales-de-todo-el-pais-se-unieron-en-un-mensaje-federal-para-reafirmar-su-nid05062026/>

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Environmental Performance Review, Republic of Moldova, 9/10-20 May 2026



The UNECE environmental performance review (EPR) is an external assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in fulfilling its international environmental commitments (taken from UNECE information sheet).

At the invitation of the Moldovan government, former IMPEL Chair, Mr Chris Dijkens, as part of an international team under the auspices of UNECE, met with ENPE Permanent Representative for the Republic of Moldova, Dr Armen Oganesean to discuss the approach to environmental crime in Moldova, its scale and, in particular, the coordination of the various parts of the compliance and enforcement chain, the authorities involved, what is working well and where there is room for improvement.

The alignment of national legislation with the new European Environmental Crime Directive, what has already been done and what still needs to be done was also discussed in a very productive meeting with more contact due to follow in due course as progress develops. Thanks to Chris and Armen for their contributions in sharing this interesting update [details and image credit: C Dijkens & A Oganesean]

News from Italy: Observatory on Biodiversity, Animals and Climate Change established at the Sapienza University, Rome, Italy and an updated manual on animal law produced.

Our ENPE Supporting member Dr Carla Campanaro has shared details of a new Observatory on Biodiversity, Animals and Climate Change which has been established at the Department of Political Science of Sapienza University of Rome. <https://disp.web.uniroma1.it/it/osservatorio-su-biodiversita-animali-cambiamenti-climatici>.

The Observatory is conceived as a permanent interdisciplinary centre for research, training and dialogue on biodiversity protection, animal welfare and climate change. It promotes an integrated approach linking legal, political and socio-economic dimensions, grounded in the interconnection between humans, animals and ecosystems. Its activities will include academic research, policy analysis, training programmes and institutional engagement.

PRESENTAZIONE DEL MANUALE CONGIUNTO LAV E ARMA DEI CARABINIERI

IL DIRITTO DEGLI ANIMALI
PROFILI DI DIRITTO PUBBLICO, AMMINISTRATIVO E PENALE
ASPETTI PROCEDURALI ED ELEMENTI DI MEDICINA VETERINARIA
EDIZIONE 2026

MARTEDÌ 5 MAGGIO 2026, ORE 9.30 – 13.00
AUDITORIUM VIA RIETI
Via Rieti 16, ROMA

09.30 WELCOME COFFEE
Moderatore: Alessandro Fida, giornalista del Corriere della Sera

09.30 APERTURA LAVORI E SALUTI ISTITUZIONALI
On. C.A. Fabrizio Perrelli, Coordinatore Unità Formative Anzianità e Organizzazione Costituzionale
On. Elisabetta Fichetti, Presidente LAV
On. Pasquale Bonanni, Amministratore Generale Corte di Cassazione
On. B. Giorgio Maria Bonelli, Coordinatore del Programmamento Carabinieri CTSF
On. B. Maurizio Cusi, Vice Capo di Gabinetto del Ministero Ambiente e Sicurezza Energetica (delegato dal Ministro)

09.30 PRESENTAZIONE DEL MANUALE
a cura del Comitato di Regia: Anna Aze, Carla Campanaro e Roberto Pavesio, coordinatori del Manuale

Intervengono presso il Tavolo:
Prof.ssa Maria Vittoria Ferraresi, Università La Sapienza di Roma
Prof.ssa Anna Maria Costi, Università Milano Bicocca
Dott.ssa Maria Bonetti, Esperta in servizi giuridici
Dott.ssa Chiara Pavesi
Dott. Carlo Maria Tognoncelli, CNA del Gruppo Carabinieri Forestali di Reggio Emilia
Dott. Riccardo Piva, Presidente della Società Italiana di Scienze Forensi Veterinarie

09.50 CONCLUSIONI



Dr Campanaro will serve as Coordinator of the Observatory, contributing to the development and implementation of its activities. For more details please use the link and contact options included, above.

Separately, the joint LAV-Carabinieri Manual on Animal Law (2026 edition) has been released to assist in the prosecution of crimes against animal and biodiversity protection following a launch event in Rome on 5 May 2026.

The Manual, now in its second edition after the 2020 one, is structured in 9 chapters and involves 37 contributors. It brings together the work of university professors as well as magistrates, lawyers, members of the Carabinieri and veterinary experts. It addresses animal and biodiversity protection starting from bioethics and philosophy of law, and develops through constitutional, public and administrative law, up to criminal law and criminal procedure, with a dedicated focus on veterinary and scientific aspects. The event flyer (above) provides more information and there will be other conferences around Italy, involving Dr Campanaro and other ENPE member representatives and members from Italy. [update, links and image provided by C Campanaro].

Romania: National Conference on Environmental Law: New normative instruments for environmental protection through criminal law. Contraventional and criminal liability in the field of forestry –‘remarkable trees’.

On March 27, 2026, **Dr Remus Jurj, Associate professor Maritime University Constanța and ENPE Supporting Member** participated as a representative of ENPE in the second edition of the **Romanian National Conference on Environmental Law, with the theme: New normative instruments for environmental protection through criminal law, contraventional and criminal liability in the forestry field**, organized in **Bucharest** by the **Ecological University of Bucharest and the Universul Juridic** editorial group, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Waters and Forests, the Bucharest Forest Guard and the Romanian Environment Association. Remus provided the following summary:

“The conference brought together the main actors in the field - authorities, magistrates, specialized lawyers, consultants, academics, professional associations, experts from the fields involved - who presented, debated and analyzed the normative framework of interest, such as:

- the new European framework for environmental protection regarding criminal law;
- the impact of the new European legal instruments on Romanian law [problems of the ratification of the EC Convention, of the **transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1203**];
- the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal environmental legislation;
- the contribution of the new Forestry Code to the consolidation and improvement of repressive forestry law.

During this conference, together with the chief prosecutor of the criminal investigation and forensics section of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Constanța Court of Appeal, Vasile Drăghici, university professor at

the Ovidius University of Constanța, I presented a paper on the subject of **CRIMINAL PROTECTION OF REMARKABLE TREES**.

The presentation focused on a comparative analysis of Law no. 97/2023, regarding the protection of outstanding trees, which defines outstanding trees and which only provides civil liability protection and Law no. 331/2024, the Forestry Code, which sanctions as a forestry crime the destruction, cutting and theft of outstanding trees from the national forest fund and forest vegetation installed on green spaces, defined by Law no. 24/2007, respectively parks, gardens, squares, planted strips, recreational forests, green spaces for the protection of watercourses, etc.), which conditions the application of the rule: the fact that it concerns forest vegetation from these categories, not any tree outside the village. For the purposes of this Law 97/2023, outstanding trees are trees outside the national forest fund, including in the urban areas, which meet at least one of the following characteristics:

- a) have a minimum trunk circumference measured at 130 cm from the ground upstream according to the annex that is an integral part of this law (between 150-400 cm, depending on the species);
- b) they are at least 160 years old, established on the basis of the data entered in the forest management or other documents, as well as specific determinations and measurements, carried out on the date of tree registration;
- c) present a cultural-historical value for the area and community, being linked to a historical event or a personality, a historical event or a legend.

I emphasized that a remarkable, destroyed or degraded tree that is in an urban green space does not benefit from the criminal protection of art. 145 of the Forestry Code, as an aggravating or aggravating form. (the penalty limits to be increased by half). An important aspect concerned the types of damage in the case of crimes committed in green spaces (art. 140 of the Forestry Code), respectively:

Property damage: the value of destroyed or degraded trees/vegetation, calculated on the basis of reference prices, replacement value, replanting and maintenance costs until reaching the initial state.

Ecological damage: impact on biodiversity, microclimate, air quality, noise and pollution protection functions; it is more difficult to quantify and can be translated through technical indicators established in the methodological norms (coefficients per species, age, diameter, ecological value).

Social-aesthetic damage: the damage to the urban landscape, the cultural or historical value of the green space, sometimes reflected in the decrease of the real estate value or in the loss of some urban facilities.

Comparatively, the forest damage regulated by the Forestry Code (forestry (the value of the damage + the value of the unrealized functions of the forest), is calculated by volume, average price per m³ and established ecological coefficients, applicable to any cut/destroyed tree, including those considered 'outstanding'. It was also emphasized that Law 97/2023 does not give a mathematical formula for the assessment per tree, but

establishes the principle: private owners are compensated for the outstanding trees in the Catalog, and the amount and method are established by law enforcement regulations, which until now, although 3 years have passed since the law came into force, have not been adopted.

In conclusion, Romanian legislation is relatively new in terms of the protection of outstanding trees, it is far from complete, lacking in the first the qualification of the outstanding tree as a natural heritage asset, as defined by the O.U.G. no. 57/2007 regarding protected areas and the lack of a methodology for calculating the damage in case of cutting or destroying a remarkable tree.” Many thanks to Professor Remus Jurj, former public prosecutor and now professor at the Maritime University of Constanta, Romania, for this comprehensive report on what was clearly a valuable and interesting event.

Interesting cases

From Environment Agency (England, UK) Press Release, Thursday 18 December 2025

Success for Environment Agency's investigation into illegal waste site in Lincolnshire, England, UK

- Three men and four companies brought to justice
- Huge amounts of illegal waste imported onto farm
- Drone footage captured images of active site

An investigation by the Environment Agency into a large illegal waste site on a Lincolnshire farm has brought to justice three men and four companies.

It has resulted in two men receiving suspended prison sentences while a third was given a conditional discharge for two years and a criminal behaviour order.

In addition, the Environment Agency accepted Enforcement Undertakings (EU) from three companies which had made regular deposits of unpermitted construction and demolition waste without carrying out due diligence checks. This resulted in £98,000 going to environmental charities.

A fourth company was fined £3,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1500.

The latest hearing was held at Lincoln Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 10 December 2025. Reporting on the case has been delayed until all parties involved had been dealt with.

Investigating officers seized closed circuit TV footage to assess the waste stored at Hook Cliff Farm, Gonerby Moor, near Grantham.

Waste was found on site including hazardous motor vehicle waste plus mixed household and commercial waste. The site is also estimated to have imported some 27,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste.

Peter Stark, Enforcement Team Leader for Environment Agency in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area, said:

"Illegal waste crime scars our communities and is something we're committed to tackling together with local councils and the police.

"Together we're pulling every lever available to us to disrupt those who profit from the harm illegal waste sites cause

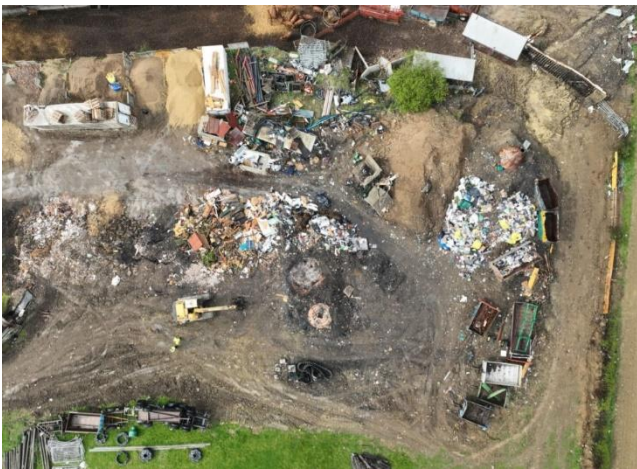
"Anyone, including contractors, farmers and landowners should make their own due diligence checks and with the Environment Agency before and during waste business operations.

“This is to ensure they do not breach the duty of care as outlined in our guidance and the Environment Protection Act 1990.

“If it sounds too good to be true, it may be illegal, the duty of care is legally binding and must be followed. We continue to work with Lincolnshire Police to tackle sites like this.

“If people suspect illegal waste operations are taking place they should call our 24/7 hotline on 0800 807060 or Crimestoppers on 08000 555111.”

Footage from drone flights captured images of an active waste site including skip lorries and a grabber machine feeding the fire with waste over several hours [still below courtesy of Environment Agency 2025].



On 13 April 2022, a court warrant was executed with the support of Lincolnshire Police officers and an unannounced inspection of the farm was conducted.

The warrant enabled the investigation to obtain hours of CCTV footage and dozens of invoices and waste documentation which they subjected to painstaking analysis.

The visit on 13 April also brought an exchange between Environment Agency officers and the landowner.

When he was asked for his paperwork, he said he was not very good at paperwork and added: “I take in lorry loads of shit, hardcore on the cheap and that’s how I survive.”

During that visit, several vehicles were intercepted arriving on site, loaded with waste. A burn site was also discovered and there was evidence of mixed waste being burned.

Officers also saw that some of the farm’s cattle were living amongst the waste and that a feeder machine was being used.

The court heard that by operating without a permit, the defendant had avoided permitting fees, taxes and infrastructure costs to the tune of over £500,000.

His case was adjourned to September 2026 for a hearing to deal with the recovery of the Proceeds of Crime and the recovery of prosecution costs.



In his sentencing remarks, Recorder Hardy KC, said: “Over a period of years, you operated a waste disposal business on your farm which was unregulated and offended environmental laws. That’s our environment, everyone’s environment.” [photos courtesy of Environment Agency]

Note: Enforcement Undertakings (EUs) for environmental offences were first introduced under the Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010 and the Environmental Civil Sanctions (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2010.

But have since been made available for other environmental offences, including under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

Accepting an Enforcement Undertaking is always at the discretion of the EA. EUs can be offered for offences including polluting rivers, breaching permit conditions designed to protect communities, or failing to register and comply with recycling/recovery obligations.

The EA then carefully considers whether the actions offered by the offender are acceptable.

BIOVAL article in La Libre Belgique (Belgian national newspaper)

An article introducing project [BIOVAL](#), an initiative that was led by our colleagues at the European Union of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE), and for which ENPE was a project partner, was shared for inclusion in this newsletter and provides some very helpful background and examples of how the tool is applied.

Please see here for more information: [Capturer une cigogne pourrait vous coûter 24 000 euros en justice - La Libre](#) [Article provided by EUFJE]

Contact

For all queries, including suggestions for articles to submit, please contact Shaun Robinson, ENPE aisbl secretariat and Project Manager at: shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk Mob:+44 (0)7771 940690 Tel:+44 (0)203 025 2880; Please do visit our website: www.environmentalprosecutors.eu



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