

Zero Waste Live!



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HOW TO SOLVE THE WASTE TRADE CRISIS?



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Impacts of waste trade

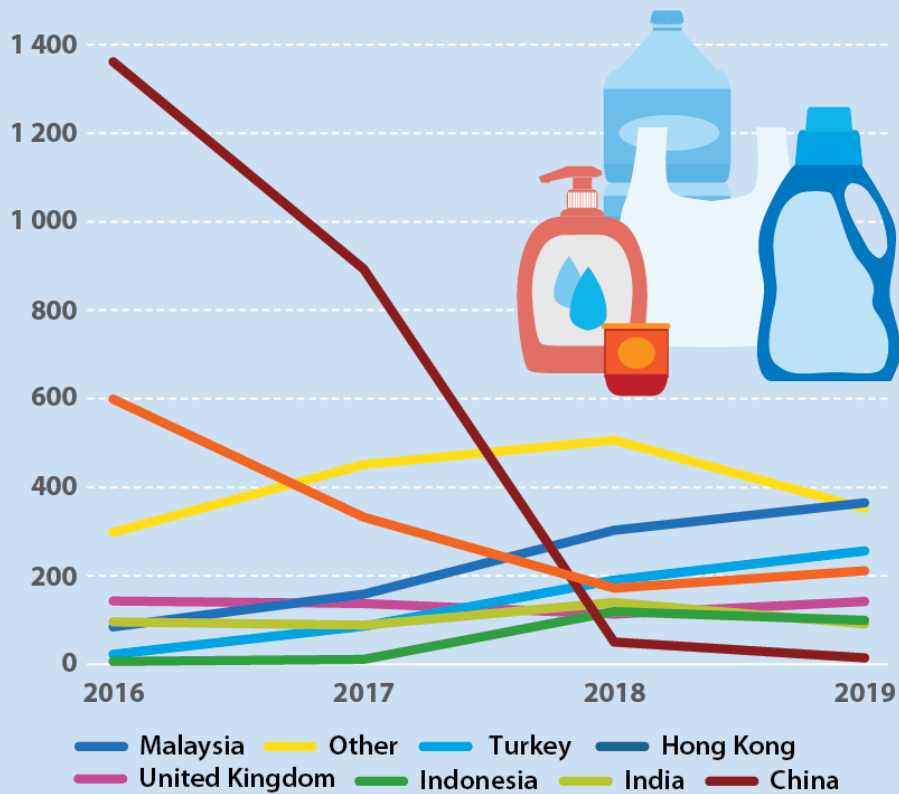


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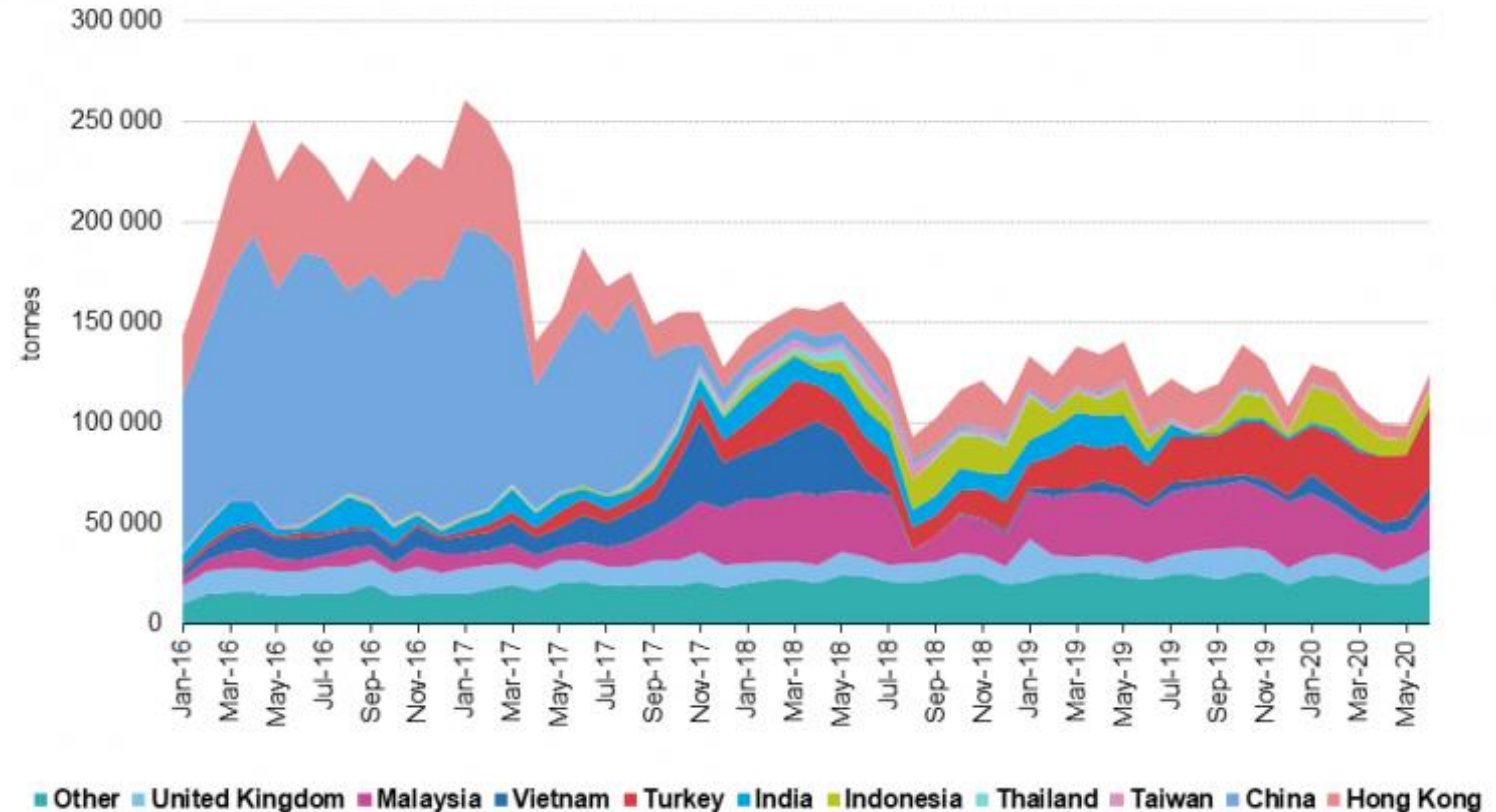
Where did plastic waste from the EU go to?

Plastic waste exported from the EU
(thousand tonnes)



ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Export of plastic waste for recycling from the EU to receiving countries, 2016 to June 2020



Source: Eurostat COMEXT

eurostat

What are the impacts?

- Dumping of residual & non-recyclable waste
- Open burning, crude incinerators, cement kiln
- Pollution of soil, water, air
- Threatened public/workers health & safety
- Shifting burden of clean-up



The Toxic Effects



Significant contamination with hazardous chemicals including heavy metals and the presence of brominated flame retardants were found at sites where plastic waste were burned.

There is evidence that surface waters adjacent to, or downstream from, some of the plastic disposal or processing sites investigated in this study are contaminated with solid waste and chemicals, which may have originated from the plastics discarded at these sites or equivalent operations within the same area. Unregulated and now abandoned, dumpsite at Sri Cheeding has been filled and covered with shredded plastics as a layer of topsoil. This layer of topsoil is contaminated with high concentrations of heavy metals including cadmium and lead, relative to background environmental levels. Laboratory tests also revealed the presence of persistent organic compounds such as brominated flame retardants and phthalates at this site.



<https://www.greenpeace.org/malaysia/publication/3349/the-recycling-myth-2-0/>

<https://www.greenpeace.to/greenpeace/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GRL-AR-2019-05.pdf>

Repatriation of waste

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/01/20/malaysia-returns-waste-to-europe-says-it-won-t-be-rubbish-dump-of-the-world>

Out of the 150 containers returned:

- 43 to France,
- 42 to the United Kingdom,
- 17 to the United States,
- 11 to Canada,
- 10 to Spain
- the rest to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Portugal, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania



Department of Environment Malaysia reported that as of June 2020, waste containers were returned to Belgium (7), Germany (2), Poland (1).

Emerging issue - paper recycling plants with incinerators (mostly imported waste)

Executive Summary

Environmental Impact Assessment (2nd Schedule)

Proposed Recycle Pulp & Packaging Paper Plant

Lot 79114, Tanjung Duabelas, Kuala Langat, Selangor



Thermal Treatment Plant

Steam production	88 t/h
System	Circulating fluidised bed combustion system
Fuel	Waste from plant operations (light rejects, pulp rejects, wastewater sludge, etc.,)



Waste Acceptance Criteria

Grade	HS Code	Total Out Throw	Prohibitive Material	Allowable Moisture
Special OCC	4707100000	≤ 5%	≤ 1.5%	≤ 12%
Normal OCC	4707200000	≤ 10%	≤ 2%	≤ 12%
Normal OCC	4707300000	≤ 20%	≤ 2%	≤ 12%

Illegal e-waste trade & impact



What do we want?

- Ban the export of plastic waste outside of the EU.
- Take responsibility to recycle domestically, and prioritise source reduction.
- Robust monitoring and enforcement measures to tackle illegal waste trade.

Q: Is circular economy or recycling the answer to the plastic waste crisis?