

# Green Customs Initiative Operation DEMETER



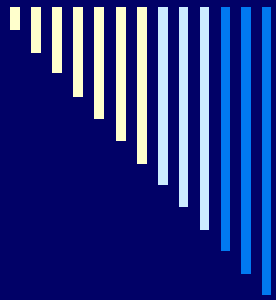
PICARD Conference

28 – 30.09.2009

San Jose, Costa Rica

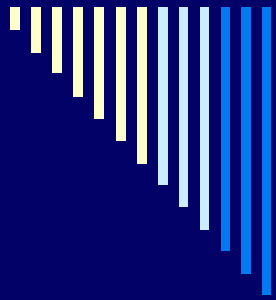
Mariya Polner

World Customs Organization



## Presentation Structure

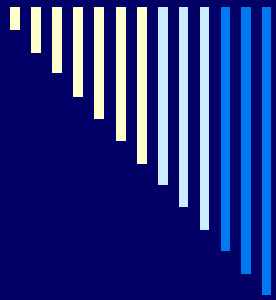
- Why Green Customs?
- Operation Demeter & Its Objectives
- Participating Organizations/Agencies
- Demeter: Scope & Targets
- Operation Duration
- Profiling & Information Exchange
- CENCOMM as a Communication Tool
- Operation Results
- Conclusions



# Why Green Customs?

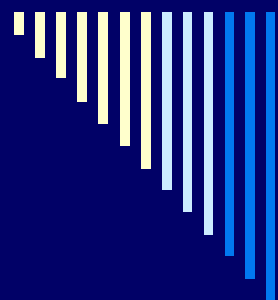
- Growing global trade in hazardous and other waste
- A high rate of non-compliance with Basel Convention\*
  - Seaport Project (Europe, 2004)
  - Sky-Hole Patching Project (Asia-Pacific, 2006-2007)
- Common responsibility
- International and national legal instruments
- The WCO activities:
  - Action Plan and Recommendation

\*Under the Basel Convention, Parties have the right to prohibit import of waste. A Party is prohibited from exporting waste without prior consent from the importing side



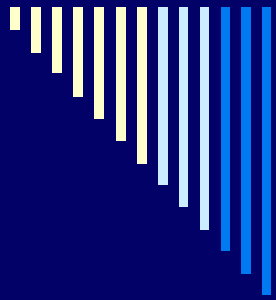
# Operation DEMETER (Europe, Asia-Pacific & Africa) 23 March - 11 May 2009

- Objectives:
  - Raising global awareness
  - Showing commitment and the role of Customs
  - Quantitative study on the scale of illegal trade
  - Verification of the final destinations for waste
  - Mutual understanding & cooperation
  - Tangible results in terms of seizures
  - Practical experience in multi-agency operations



## Participating Organizations/Agencies

- WCO Member Administrations from 7 Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO):
    - 105 countries and 7 RILOs invited
    - 64 countries and 7 RILOs participated
  - Secretariat of Basel Convention (SBC)
  - IMPEL-TFS
  - National environmental protection agencies
  - Police services in some countries
-



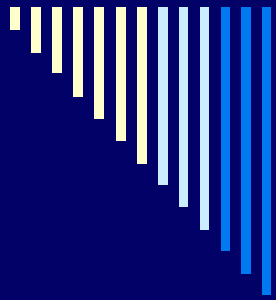
# Demeter: Scope & Targets

## Mechanism of the operation:

- Monitoring
- Notification
- Feedback
- Detection
- Seizure reports

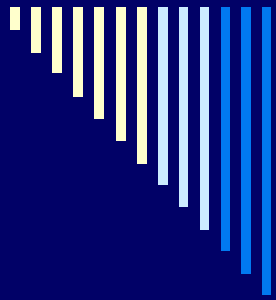
## Primary targets:

- 16 kinds of most traded and smuggled waste
- Some countries also extended the targets to other waste:
  - Listed in the Annex I and II of the Basel Convention
  - Listed in national or EU legislation



## Operation Duration

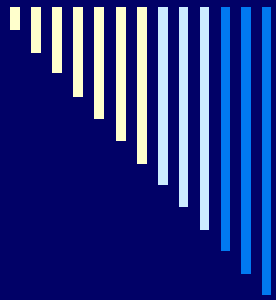
- Dates: 23 March - 11 May 2009 (50 days). Some countries extended the period
- Operational phase:
  - one week in Europe
  - two weeks in Asia/Pacific and Africa
- Post-Operation phase: two weeks
- African countries: 7 days later than European countries
- Asia-Pacific: 21 days later



# Profiling and information exchange

## Export shipment risk assessment:

- Declared as waste to participating countries in Asia-Pacific and Africa
- Suspected of containing waste materials
- Declared by known dealers or generators of waste
- Handled by operators who have been involved in previous illegal waste shipments



# CENCOMM as a Communication tool

## WCO CENCOMM

internet-based secure global platform for Customs joint operations

### Tailor-made templates:

- Pre-arrival notification
  - Feedback
  - Seizure report
- 
- Real time communication
  - Possible to send plain text messages
  - OCU is automatically copied of all messages

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Operation OPEREX - pre-arrival notification message

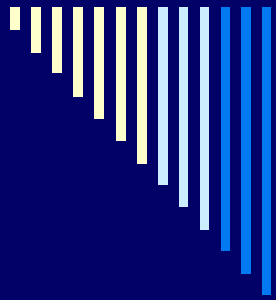
Expand | Collapse | Store | Submit

Core Information  
Document ID  
Route Information  
Nature of suspicion  
Consignee  
Shipment Information  
Consignor  
Consignee  
Other parties involved  
Narrative

Expand | Collapse | Store | Submit

WCO CENCOMM

Tel: +88-221673-3100, Fax: +88-221673-4111 Email: info.cencomm@wco-om.org



## Operation Results (1)

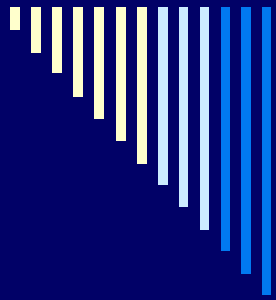
- Operation deployed at over 300 seaports in 64 countries
- 516 intelligence messages exchanged via CENCOMM:
  - 410 pre-arrival notifications
  - 49 feedbacks
  - 57 seizure messages
- The Pre-arrival notifications showed:
  - Various destinations (over 40 participating countries were intended destinations)
  - Asia-Pacific: China 86, India 31, Hong Kong (China) 31, Pakistan 15
  - Africa: Angola 43, Nigeria 27, Ghana 16, DR Congo 14



## Operation Results (2)

**1,675 pieces of waste seized (36,751 tons)**

The Netherlands	17
Belgium	11
Italy	10
Hong Kong (China)	8
France	3
Denmark	2
Poland, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Sweden (1 each)	6
<b>TOTAL seizures</b>	<b>57</b>



## Operation Results (3)

- 48 out of 57 seizures made in Europe before the waste could be shipped out. Only one seizure of waste destined within Europe (Poland)
- 8 seizures in Hong Kong (China)
- Categories of seized waste:
  - Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE):
    - Household waste (e.g. refrigerators containing CFCs, used TVs)
    - Iron scrap
    - Mixed paper/plastics
    - End-of-life vehicles
    - Used batteries

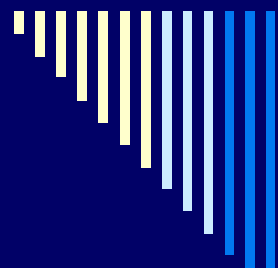
# Seized waste



**30,517 tons of iron scrap**

# Seized waste





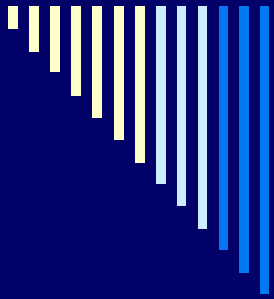
## Seized waste



**Compressors containing CFCs**

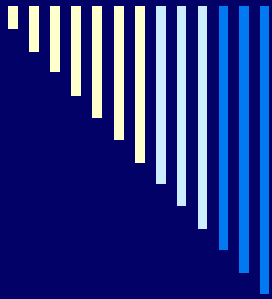


**End-of-life vehicle parts**



## Conclusions

- The first ever global joint operation in this area
- The first of its kind organized by the WCO
- Particularly successful in terms of the volume of information exchanged, number of seizures
- The first time for the EU to provide export information to countries in other regions
- Strong commitment & resources dedicated by the parties involved
- Capacity building via practical exercise
- Awareness raising



# THANK YOU

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