Fighting environmental crime in Europe

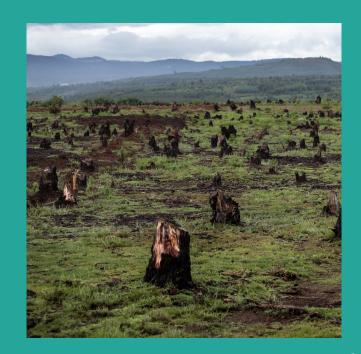
Towards a new EU legislation

By Roxane Chaplain, parliamentary assistant for Marie Toussaint, MEP



Why fighting environmental crime is essential?

- An answer to the climate crisis and the collapse of biodiversity
- To achieve the EU Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 objectives
- A means to fight against inequalities and avoid the misappropriation of money
- A European and global security issue



The gaps in the ECD directive



- A regulation too weak from the start...
 - A limited scope of application
 - No minimum base of sanctions
 - Lack of precision in the definitions

 ... and poorly implemented in the Member States.

The ECD Commission's proposal: progress but within the established framework

- Definition and creation of criminal offences
- Strengthen criminal sanctions
- Role of civil society with a specific article on the protection of environmental defenders
- Cross-border investigation and prosecution, data collection
- National strategies on environmental criminality

Towards a real change in the current approach to tackle environmental crime

Main recommendations and objectives

- 1° Recognise autonomous environmental crimes
- 2° Condemn ecocide at the European level
- 3° Create a European Green Prosecutor and specialised police forces

Autonomous environmental crimes

- In France: Lubrizol, Tereos factory in Escaudoeuvres, pollution of the Escaut river...
- In the EU: illegal tuna fishing in Malta, industrial pollution ir Portoscuso...



The crime of ecocide

- **Origin**: the Stockholm Conference in 1972, and the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam.
- Examples: The Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear disasters, the Deepwater Horizon and Prestige oil spills, and the massive deforestation in the Amazon, Congo Basin and Indonesia.
- A "unique momentum": clear call from the European Parliament and a strong international definition.



EU Green Prosecutor and specialised police forces

- Extend the competences of the European Public Prosecutor (EPPO): independent, means and greater power to tackle environmental damages.
- Specialised environmental police forces on the ground.



And many other recommendations to improve the current proposal...

- Better protection for environmental defenders.
- Specialised courts and judges in the Member States.
- Improve access to justice for the public.

And you, what would you expect from this new legislation?

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