

Fighting environmental crime in Europe

Towards a new EU legislation

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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 in 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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