

The role of IMPEL in promoting the implementation and enforcement of European environmental law

Christoph Planitzer
Lower Austria
Christoph.Planitzer@noel.gv.at

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Outline

- Who is IMPEL and what does IMPEL
- Some achievements
- Developments and challenges
- Cooperation and Coordination with other networks
- Joint Conference 2016

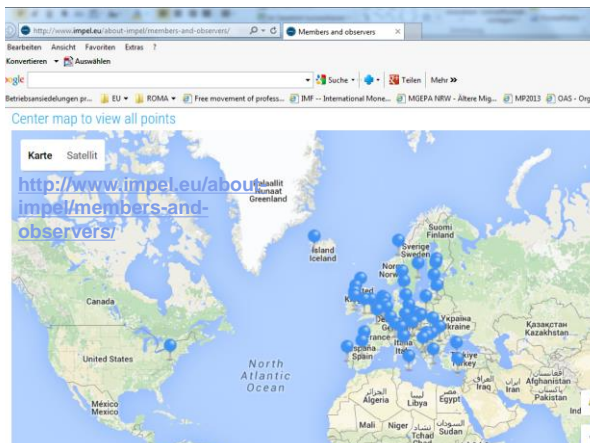


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IMPEL: an international non-profit association of 50 environmental authorities in 35 countries



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Mission

“To contribute to protecting the environment by promoting the effective implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law.”



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IMPEL: a network of practitioners

- regulators
- inspectors
- permit writers
- policy staff
- lawyers
- prosecutors





"Every directive needs technical exchanges and benchmarking to be best implemented." Jean Luc Perrin, France.



"IMPEL seems to be the unique floor where an environmental inspector from the field level gets in direct touch with colleagues from other MS [member states]." Armin Heidler, Austria.



What IMPEL does

- Peer reviews e.g. IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI)
- Support capacity building
- Carry out joint enforcement projects
- Identify and develop good practice, tools and guidance



"We recently had 89 containers returned from Indonesia. At the time, the shipping line was struggling to obtain consent from Egypt to pass through the Suez Canal. Through IMPEL, one of our staff has been closely involved in an EU Africa project which involved providing training in Egypt on the repatriation procedure - we were able to use the contacts to ensure the consent was issued, thus avoiding further costs to the shipping line / original exporter." Nigel Homer, UK.

Structure & organisation

- Decision making via:
 - General Assembly
 - Board
 - 5 Working groups called 'Thematic Networks'
 - Secretariat
 - National Representatives.
- Funding from members (membership fees) and EU LIFE+ (experts time given for free!)



Key project - IRI

- ‘IMPEL Review Initiative’ (IRI)
 - Peer review programme
 - Carried out by ‘frontline’ experts, policy makers, lawyers and managers from IMPEL member countries
 - 25 IRIs carried out so far...
 - Identifies good practice and opportunities for development



“...Money cannot buy this level and type of expertise. Peer reviews like the IRI help to create a shared understanding, promote and share new ideas, validate your own systems and ways of working, to benchmark and develop consistency, fairness and a level playing field”. Simon Bingham, Scottish EPA, UK.

Key project - Inspections

- ‘Doing the Right Things’
 - A practical guide on planning of environmental inspections
 - Principles of methodology spread to Turkey, Estonia, Spain and many more!
 - Generated sister projects e.g. prioritising inspections and setting targets.

...the “easy tools project” will have very practical effects on inspections in Bremen. Based on the product of this project (an IT-program for risk based inspection planning) we will use an adapted version to cover all our significant installations and plan our future inspections in accordance with those parameters.” Dr. Hartmut Deutsch, Land Bremen, Germany.



Enforcement –Trans-frontier shipments of waste.

- Aims:
- Develop an adequate level of inspections in Member States
 - Introduce measures to prevent and detect illegal waste shipments and to deter illegal waste exporters
 - Verify treatment destinations in or outside Europe
 - Set up training and exchange programmes for inspectors
 - Maintain and improve the network of front line inspectors and other regulators, e.g. Police and Customs

“In Croatia, control of transfrontier shipments of waste [TFS] was insufficiently covered by national regulations... involvement in IMPEL TFS projects resulted in the speeding up of the enactment of the Croatian Regulation on supervision of trans-boundary movement of waste”. Anita Patekar Pokrovac, Croatia



Illegal killing of wild birds

- Awareness raising – story telling
- Extending network of Enforcement agencies
- Developing tools and information base
- Country support - peer review



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Evaluation of IMPEL – some feedback

- IMPEL's work is highly valued, particularly its:
- focus on practical implementation
 - informal way of working
 - openness and transparency

- But IMPEL could achieve more by improving:
- country engagement
 - focus and prioritisation of work programme
 - communication and embedding of outputs
 - senior-level buy-in
 - **partnerships with other networks**



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Reasons to engage with external networks and stakeholders

- Various environmental problems have cross-border aspects and impact
- Over 700 international agreements at a bilateral, multilateral, regional and global level need to be implemented
- Effective implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement are important to successfully achieve the goals and objectives
- It became already clear in the eighties that countries and organizations need to cooperate in an international coordinated manner



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Benefits of external engagement

- Contributes to a more robust framework for implementation and enforcement
- It supports an international level playing field and a fair competition
- Access to a broader community of networks and outreach to strategic IMPEL-partners
- Partnership in (global) projects (e.g.TFS and INECE Seaport)
- Financial opportunities through co-financing of projects
- A better position to countries to understand the compliance behavior of questionable foreign actors
- Access to information, expertise and specialist services
- Marketing and distribution of IMPEL approaches and products
- Opportunities to influence the international policy agenda



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Overview external networks and key stakeholders

- Heads of EPA's network
- THEMIS Network
- European Federation of Environmental Health Professionals (EFEH)
- The Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)
- INTERPOL
- Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators neTwork (AELERT)
- Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN)
- Basel Secretariat
- International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE)
- Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes
- Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA)



Joint Conference 2016

Date: 12 and 13 May 2016

Venue: The Netherlands

Partners:

- IMPEL
- EU Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE)
- EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE)
- EnvCrimeNet

Expected participants: ca. 220

Two main themes:

- To strengthen collaboration in the enforcement chain
- To encourage further innovation in compliance and enforcement



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**Working together to bridge
the implementation gap.....**

