THE EUROPEAN UNION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME Illogal E-Wasta Export from the ELL to Africa: The Case

Illegal E-Waste Export from the EU to Africa: The Case
Studies of Nigeria and Ghana

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1. INTRODUCTION

Illicit e-waste export is one of the foremost challenges the EU faces due to:

- The rapid expansion of the electronic industry
- The heavy environmental and health impacts
- Its links to other types or organized crimes (e.g. migrant smuggling and money laundering).

This report aims to respond the following question:

"What can the EU do in order to improve its action in tackling illegal e-waste trafficking in Europe and Africa?"

3. CONCLUSIONS

- ☐ Illicit e-waste shipment is loosely organized through a coordinated approach.
- ☐ A wide range of actors are involved. Among them we highlight:
 - Mafia groups (e.g. Camorra, Cosa Nostra)
 -enable the transit
 - -connections with customs and corrupt officials
 - Waste Scrap and Waste Disposal Firms
 -Mislabelling e-waste as UEEE
 - Transport Actors
 - -Having smuggles as clients
- ☐ Key drivers:







LAX LAW ENFROCEMENT



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DIGITAL DIVIDE



SOURCE OF

EMPLOYMENT

<u>Picture 2. Broken televisions, computers and keyboards transported to Ghana</u>



2. METHODOLOGY

With the object of providing recommendations, this report studies the EU legal framework, and focuses on the case studies of Nigeria and Ghana. Of these, main actors, drivers, legal framework, and links to other crimes are considered.

This investigation was conduced by adopting the **qualitative** research method of documentary analysis, since key aspects like processes, dynamics and resources cannot be quantified. Case studies were selected as, despite its transnational nature, e-waste trafficking especially affects certain locations.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS



EU LEVEL

1. Integrate further legislation

- 2. Provide MS with training and resources
- 3. Digitalize and enhance data systems
- 4. Increase Customs' control and capabilities
- 5. Introduce positive and negative financial incentives
- 6. Include e-waste exports as part of the European Green Deal Diplomacy
- 7. Enhance the role of NGOs

AFRICA

- 1. Provide funds and tools for the development of strategies and programmes
- 2. Training the formal and the informal sector
- 3. Promote African manufacturing industry
- 4. Promote bilateral projects between EU companies and African Stakeholders
- 5. Establish collection points to facilitate the return of WEEE
- 6. Enhance the role of NGOs

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