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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Note on Directive (EU) 2024/1203 on the protection of the environment through criminal law : strengthened legal framework for combating environmental crime more effectively  
- Note by Eurojust

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Delegations will find attached the cover page and the first page of the above-mentioned note by Eurojust. The complete note is available at Eurojust's [website](#).



EUROJUST

# Note on Directive (EU) 2024/1203 on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law

Strengthened legal framework for combating  
environmental crime more effectively

29 May 2026



# NOTE ON DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1203 ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CRIMINAL LAW

Strengthened legal framework for combatting environmental crime more effectively



Instrument **replacing Directives 2008/99/EC and 2009/123/EC** (protection of the environment through criminal law; ship-source pollution).

Deadline for transposition: **21 May 2026.**

Applies to all EU Member States except Denmark and Ireland.



**Harmonised definitions of environmental criminal offences**, incl. 20 specific offences and the qualified criminal offence for catastrophic consequences comparable to ecocide.

**Much stricter and more specific penalties** for natural and legal persons, incl. minimum- maximum levels of imprisonment terms and fines.



**Enhanced rules on national jurisdiction** over environmental criminal offences, incl. the obligation to cooperate for determining the best placed jurisdiction to conduct criminal proceedings and to **refer conflicts of jurisdiction to Eurojust.**

Strong emphasis on **improving cooperation:**



- **at the national level:** better coordination within the entire national enforcement chain, from administrative inspection bodies to police and prosecutors; development of national strategies; sharing best practices; creation of specialised units; providing training for judges, prosecutors, and police;
- **at the EU level:** obligation for Member States, Eurojust, Europol, the EPPO, OLAF and the European Commission to cooperate in the fight against cross-border environmental crime; emphasised role of **Eurojust to provide technical and operational assistance** to facilitate coordination of cross-border investigations.



Alignment of measures and tools to be used in criminal proceedings:

- availability of **investigative tools incl. special investigative measures** like those available for organised crime or other serious crimes;
- obligation to conduct **tracing, freezing and confiscation** of instrumentalities and proceeds of environmental criminal offences.


**EUR-Lex**

Text of the Directive on EUR-Lex: Directive - [EU - 2024/1203 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)



**EUROJUST**

Fight against environmental crime on the [Eurojust website](#)



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