



LEGAMBIENTE

ECOMAFIA 2012

**The environmental illegality
And the role of crime organizations**

Legambiente Environmental crimes National Dept

Ecomafia, a neologism

- **1994:** **ecomafia** is the word that Legambiente coins to describe the attack to the environment by the mafia organizations
- **1999:** **ecomafia** term is included in the italian most important dictionary as *“mafia’s branch which manages activities highly dangerous for the environment, as unauthorised building and illegal toxic waste disposal”*.

Not only mafia

- Business man
- lawyers
- white collars
- politicians
- etc.

It is better talking about “Criminal
system”

Interpol definition

*“Environmental crime is a serious and growing **international problem**, with criminals violating national and international laws put in place to protect the environment. These criminals are **polluting the air, water and land**. They are pushing commercially valuable wildlife species closer to **extinction** and they are significantly **impacting the biological integrity of the planet**.”*

The Ecomafia's fields

- Illegal building
- Waste illegal traffic
- Animals illegal trade and abuse
- Trafficking in cultural goods and works of art
- Forest fires, (public water stealing), illegality in food chain

The Legambiente environmental crimes department

- October 1994: Legambiente sets up the permanent dept on the environmental crimes, working with its local groups, advisers and lawyers, public prosecutor's offices, journalists, etc
- The department, first in Italy, creates a connexion between police forces and an environmental association
- Legambiente publishes the first Ecomafia Annual Report
- At present Ecomafia Annual Report is a basic text for those who are acting against environmental crimes. The Legambiente dept also works with the National antimafia bureau, where has been created a specific team on ecomafia crimes

OSSERVATORIO
AMBIENTE
E LEGALITÀ
LEGAMBIENTE

*Prefazione
di Roberto Saviano*

**ECO
20**

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ECO MAFIA 2012

**LE STORIE
E I NUMERI
DELLA
CRIMINALITÀ
AMBIENTALE**

ANNUARI

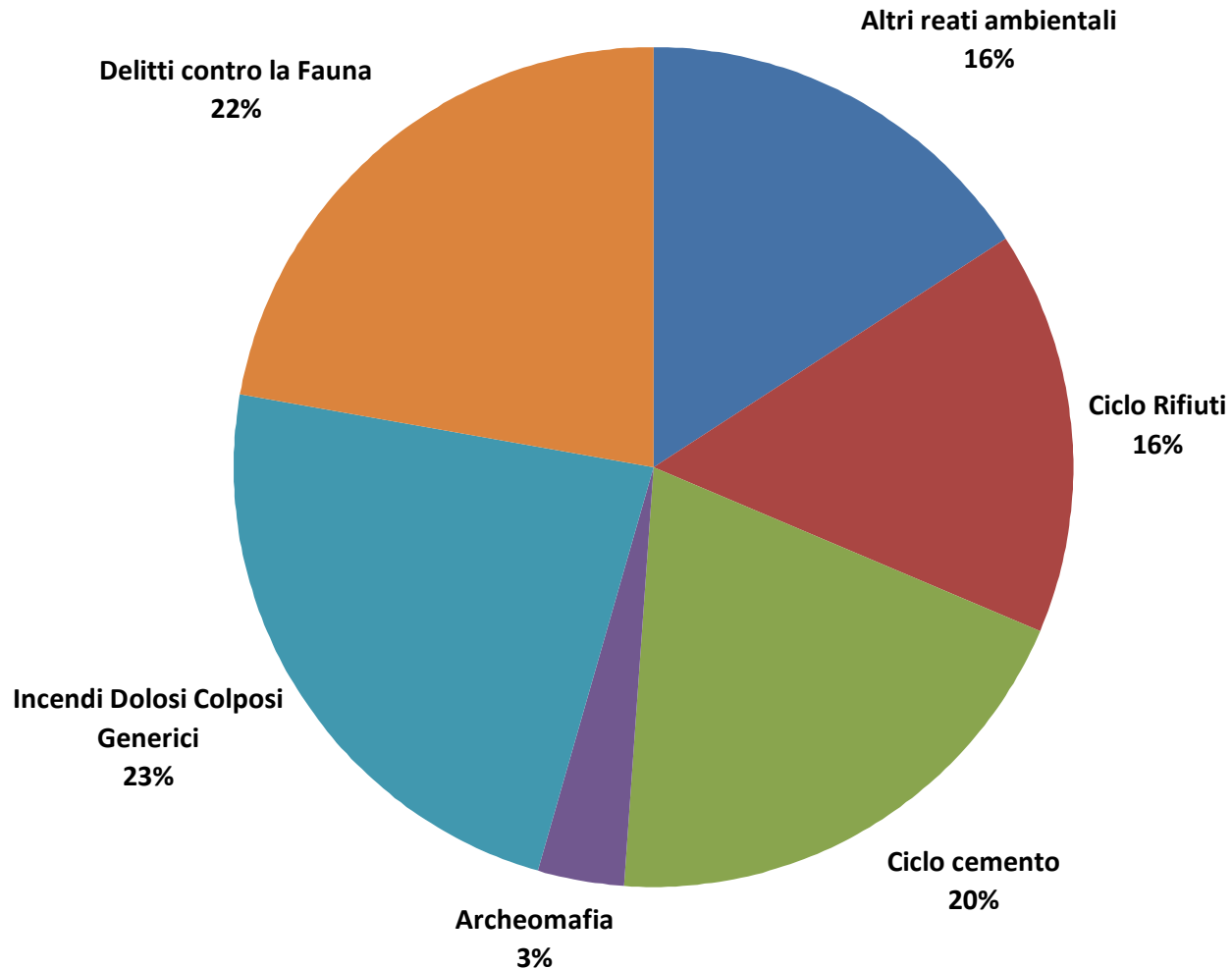
 Edizioni
Ambiente

Ecomafia 2012 in numbers

- Total amount of environmental crimes: **33.817**
(92 a day, more than 3,8 per hour)
- Arrested people: **305**
- Reported people: **27.969**
- Seizures: **8.765**
- Involved mafia families: **296 (+6)**
- **Estimated turnover: 16,5 mld €**
- (about 25% of the total mafia's business amount)

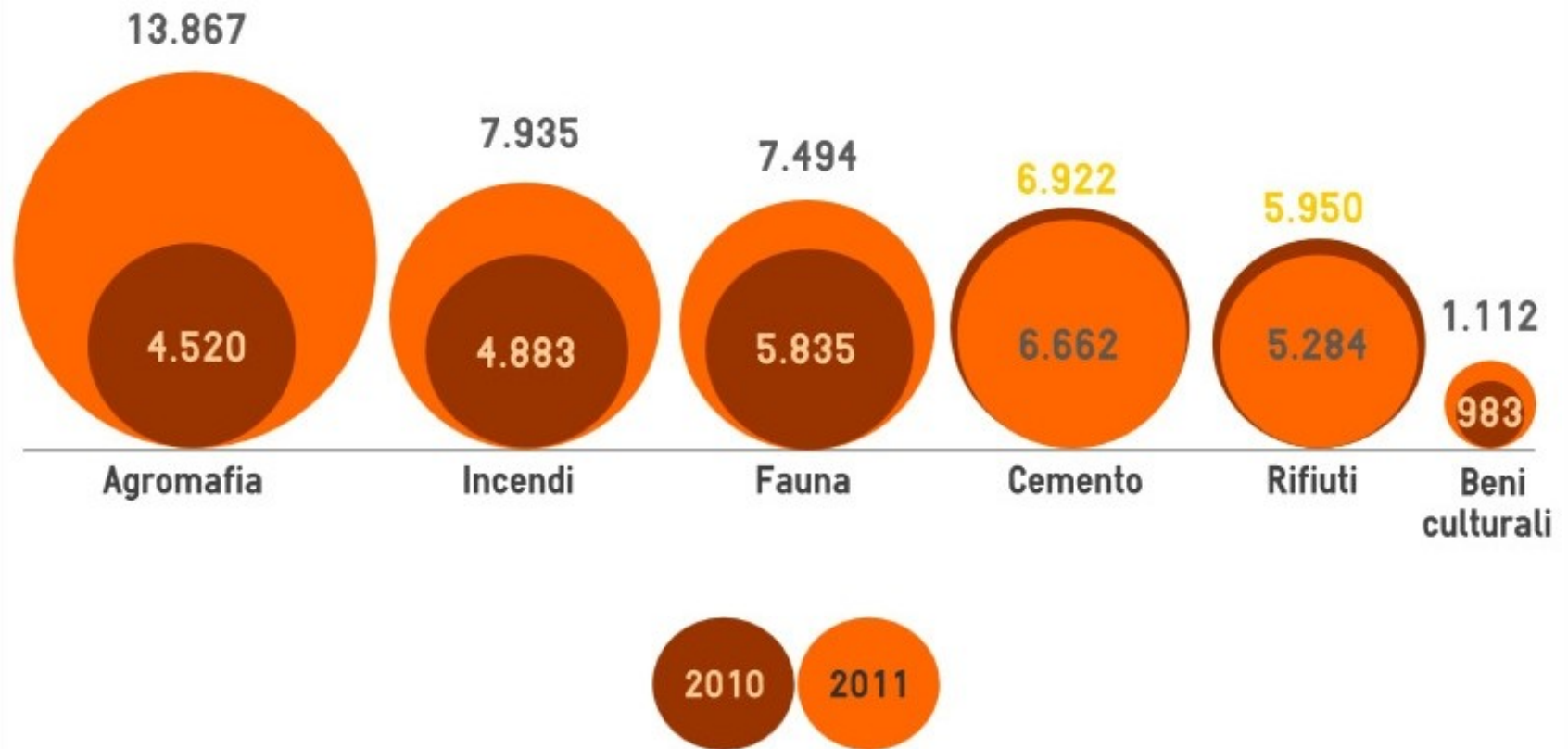
L'incidenza per settori

Illegalità Ambientale 2011



I reati ambientali

33.817 reati ambientali accertati nel 2011, 93 al giorno, 4 ogni ora



“Waste S.p.a.”

- *“..no mister, no more drugs. Now I started a new business. Is more profitable and even safe: it’s called monnezza (garbage), my friend. Because, believe me, monnezza is better than gold”*
(December 1992, Naples mafia informer Nunzio Perrella to the public prosecutor Franco Roberti)
- It is clear how much Naples mafia is involved in the illegal waste trafficking and disposal, enhanced by the lack of law and some complicity inside institutions
- Yearly waste trafficking business is about **7 billions of euros**

The italian best practice

- In 2001 the national parliament carried a bill concerning the crime of “**organized activity of illegal waste trade**”, art. 260 Dlgs 152/2006.
- Since that moment the italian legislation makes an important step ahead in fighting waste trafficking.
- It should be extended to all EU countries

Il ciclo illegale dei rifiuti

346mila t

Nel 2011 sono stati sequestrate 346.000 tonnellate di rifiuti, per trasportare le quali ci sarebbe bisogno di 13.848 tir, che formerebbero una fila di oltre 188 km



Se consideriamo gli ultimi 10 anni, questa virtuale "strada dell'ecomafia" supera i 7.300 km



23 nazioni

Sono 23 le nazioni coinvolte nei traffici illeciti di rifiuti (dati fino al 30 aprile 2012)

10 in Europa (Austria, Bulgaria, Francia, Germania, Grecia, Inghilterra, Norvegia, Russia, Turchia, Ungheria)

8 in Africa (Congo, Egitto, Etiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia)

5 in Asia (Cina, India, Pakistan, Malesia, Siria)

Investigation over illegal waste trafficking: some numbers

Since 2002:

- **199** investigations have been completed
- **676** companies
- **87** Public prosecutor offices have been involved
- **1.229** arrested people (**over 3.650** reported)
- **23** foreign countries involved (10 in Europe: (Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, England, Norway, Russia, Hungary, Turkey)

Campania record

- It's estimated that 13 million tons of waste (using some 520.000 trucks) have been illegally disposed during the last three years in Campania region, generating a business valued about 4 billions of euros.



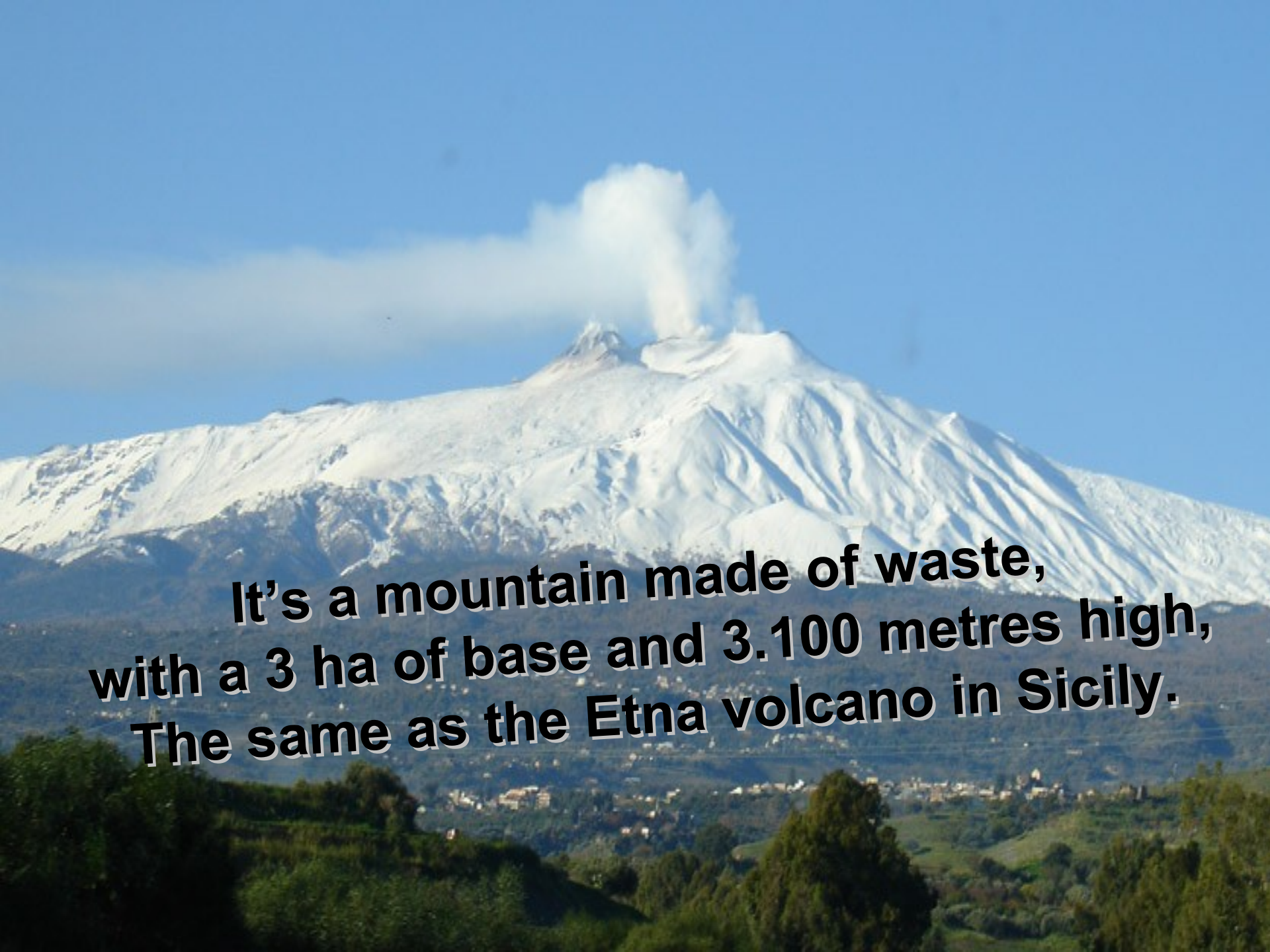
Cultivated land in Caserta province: illegal disposal of toxic waste used as fertiliser (photo taken by Police force).



The ecomafia “mountain range”

Anno	Rifiuti speciali prodotti (milioni di t)	Rifiuti speciali gestiti (milioni di t)	Rifiuti speciali “a rischio” (milioni di t)	Altezza della montagna con base di 3 ettari (m)
1997	60,9	46,8	14,1	1.407
1998	68	56,4	11,6	1.150
1999	72,5	61,3	11,2	1.120
2000	82,8	69	13,8	1.382
2001	90,1	77	13,1	1.314
2002	92,1	77,5	14,6	1.460
2003	100,5	81,7	18,8	1.880
2004	108,4	82,4	26,0	2.600
2005	107,5	87,8	19,7	1.970
2006	134,7	103,7	31	3.100

According to the Ministry of Environment, in 2006 in Italy disappeared 31 million tons of hazardous wastes, representing the difference between the amount produced by the industries and the legal disposal



**It's a mountain made of waste,
with a 3 ha of base and 3.100 metres high,
The same as the Etna volcano in Sicily.**

- Considering only the inquiries where data are available (most of them are unknown), in the last two years policies have been seizing 2,4 millions tons of hazardous waste
- This quantity needs about 96.030 trucks to be transported, and if we imagine these trucks in a row, it would cover the road from Reggio Calabria to St. Moritz in Switzerland

The ecomafia's road







eccetto veicoli
in emergenza
ed autorizzati
only emergency vehicles
and authorized
↓

PUNTA
DELLE TERRARE
imbarco
embarking
2

PUNTA
DELLE TERRARE
imbarco
embarking

GUARDIA di FINANZA

SICILIANA
CUSTOMS

G
SCHMITZ

LONG VEHICLE



623

GR
SCH

DOGANI
CUSTOMS

LONG

The business of illegal building

This criminal sector goes from the illegal exploitation of quarries and sand drawing from rivers and beaches until the unauthorised building, in public areas as well as in private ones.

It also concerns criminal presence in public procurements.

Unauthorised building of villas, tourist resort and hotels along the most beautiful sea coasts or inside protected natural areas is economically advantageous.

This illegal practice is diffused all over the country, but is more serious in southern regions (Campania, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily), where it crosses the interests of the mafia organizations.

In 1985, in 1994 and again in 2003, the Italian parliament voted a general building amnesty.

2011 – Some numbers describing the illegal building crime field

- **Illegal buildings: 25.800**
- **Crimes: 6.662**
- **Reported people: 8745**
- **Arrested people: 20**
- **Seizures : 1.964**

Quarries: from cement to waste

The thousands of quarries all over the country are the starting and ending point of the Ecomafia criminal activities:

- are the symbol and the means by which mafia can have the control of the territory. And also the source of very cheap raw material for concrete
- at the same time the holes are perfect places to dispose special waste.





Campania: a region of records

- **70%** of the Campania municipalities under judicial administration (because of mafia presence) are as a consequence of illegal building practices.
- At Giugliano, a town near Naples, the public prosecutor office arrested 32 policemen. They were part of a gang running the business of illegal building inside the local police headquarter offices.
- In the Agro-sarnese-nocerino district (158 squared kilometres) more than 300.000 squared metres of land has been occupied by illegal concrete in 4 years. Over 27.000 persons has been denounced in 20 years (10% of the entire population).

Houses on waste.

Quarto Flegreo (Naples): the seizure of a site where a company is building houses on illegal waste disposal





Eco Monsters



**Punta Perotti
(Bari promenade)**





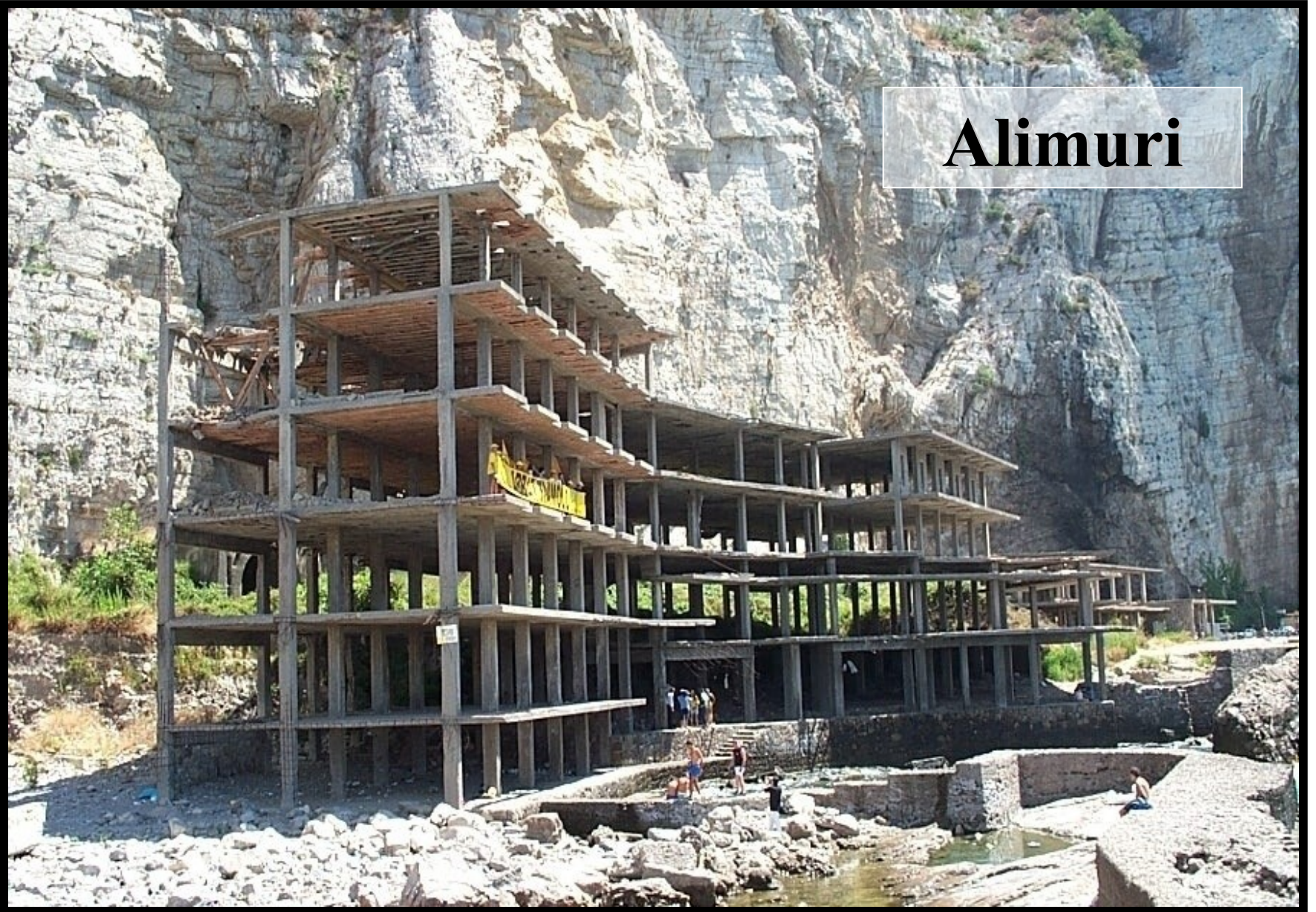


**Pizzo Sella's hill
(Palermo-Sicily)**

Alimuri, Vico Equense (Naples)



Alimuri



Air field in Scalea district (Cosenza – Calabria)

Pollino Park

Houses

Lao River

S.S. 18

Tirreno Sea



**“Pilework house”
Falerna (Calabria).**



**2.800 houses along the 10 km coast
between the sea and the Lesina lake.**



Torre Mileto illegal village (Lesina – Puglia)

A house in Verbone (Imperia - Liguria)





**Mobile house on the beach
Falerna (Calabria)**

4 7 2007



4 7 2007



**An illegal medieval castle
built in the Caserta district
(Sant'Angelo d'Alife)**

Ecomafia and natural disasters

The cement abuse and the illegal buildings multiply the hydro and geological instability.

An event which interests 82% of the Italian municipalities.

**Maierato's landslide (Vibo
Valentia - Calabria), 18 feb 2010**







**San Fratello landslide effect
(Messina - Sicily).**

Feb 2010



**The landslide in Messina (Sicily)
37 victims - Oct 2009**



NO STOPPING

111

111

BALDINI VERNO

AA-245 XB







Ecomafia worldwide

Ecomafia is itself an international business, operating through a system of routes all over the world.

The differences between national legislations and the difficulties to plan joint actions give to the criminal organizations a considerable advantage

International Waste Trafficking

- Since the seventies to send industrial and radioactive waste to the poorest areas of the world is a big business.
- Specialized companies make good earnings
- A case is the one known as “**Poisoned shipments**”, the mysterious wreck of many cargos in the Mediterranean Sea between '70 and '90)

We are talking about one of the most
important economic issue

Italian Customs Agency

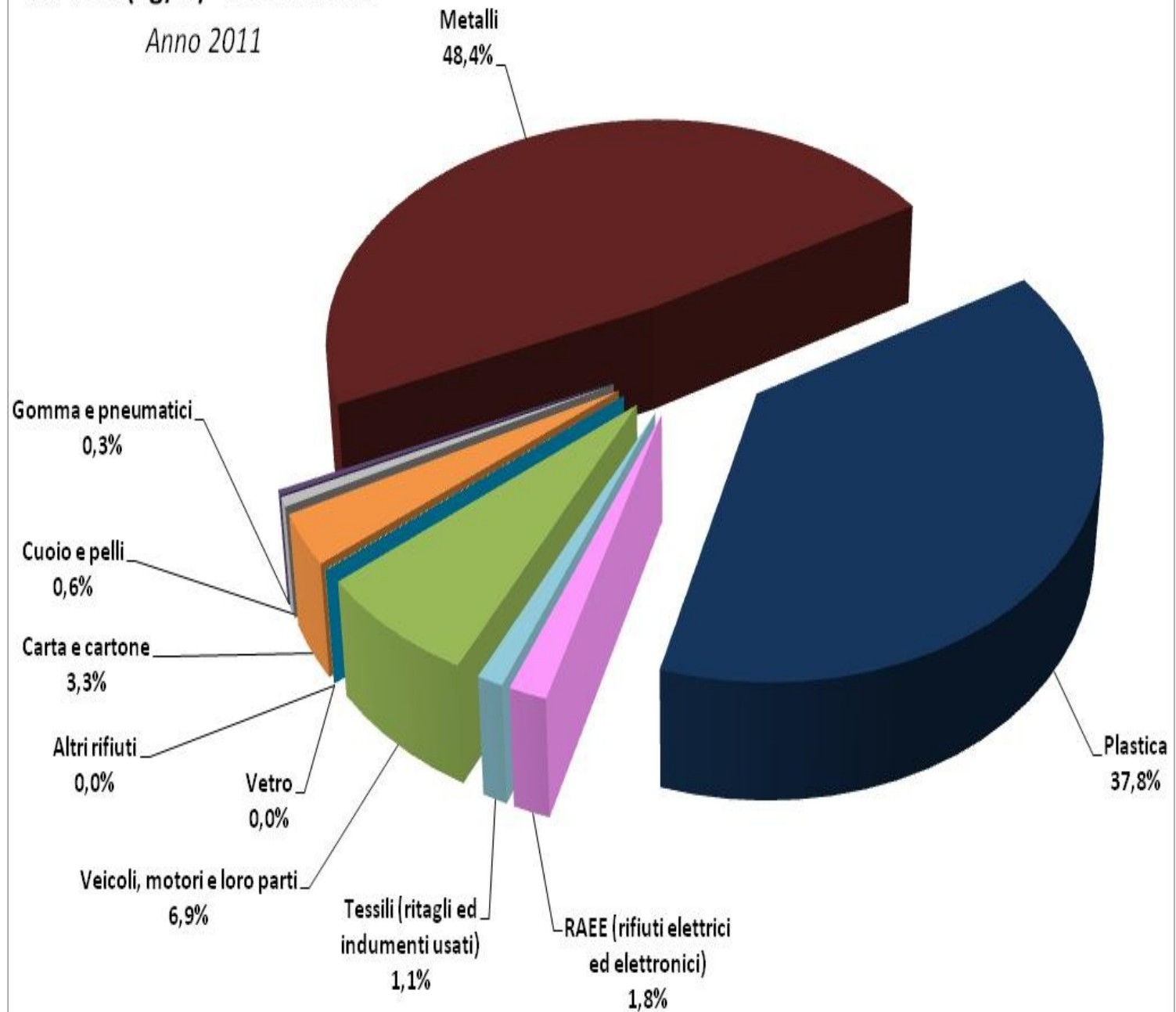
In 2011 seized **7.400 tons** of hazardous waste leaving for abroad

In the last three years Italian Customs seized more than 40.000 tons of waste leaving for foreign countries

Destination countries are mainly in South East Asia (China and Hong Kong) and Africa

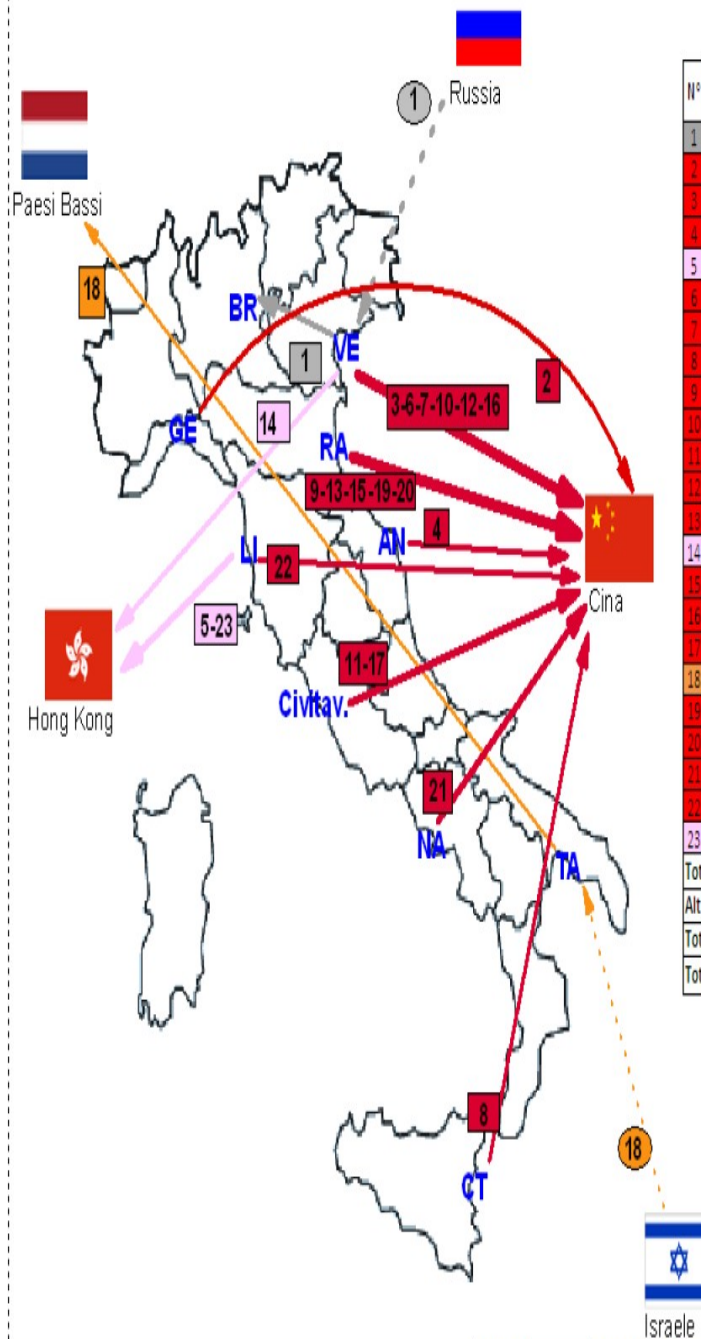
RIFIUTI (kg/lt) - descrizione

Anno 2011



PRINCIPALI CASI DI RIFIUTI

Anno 2011

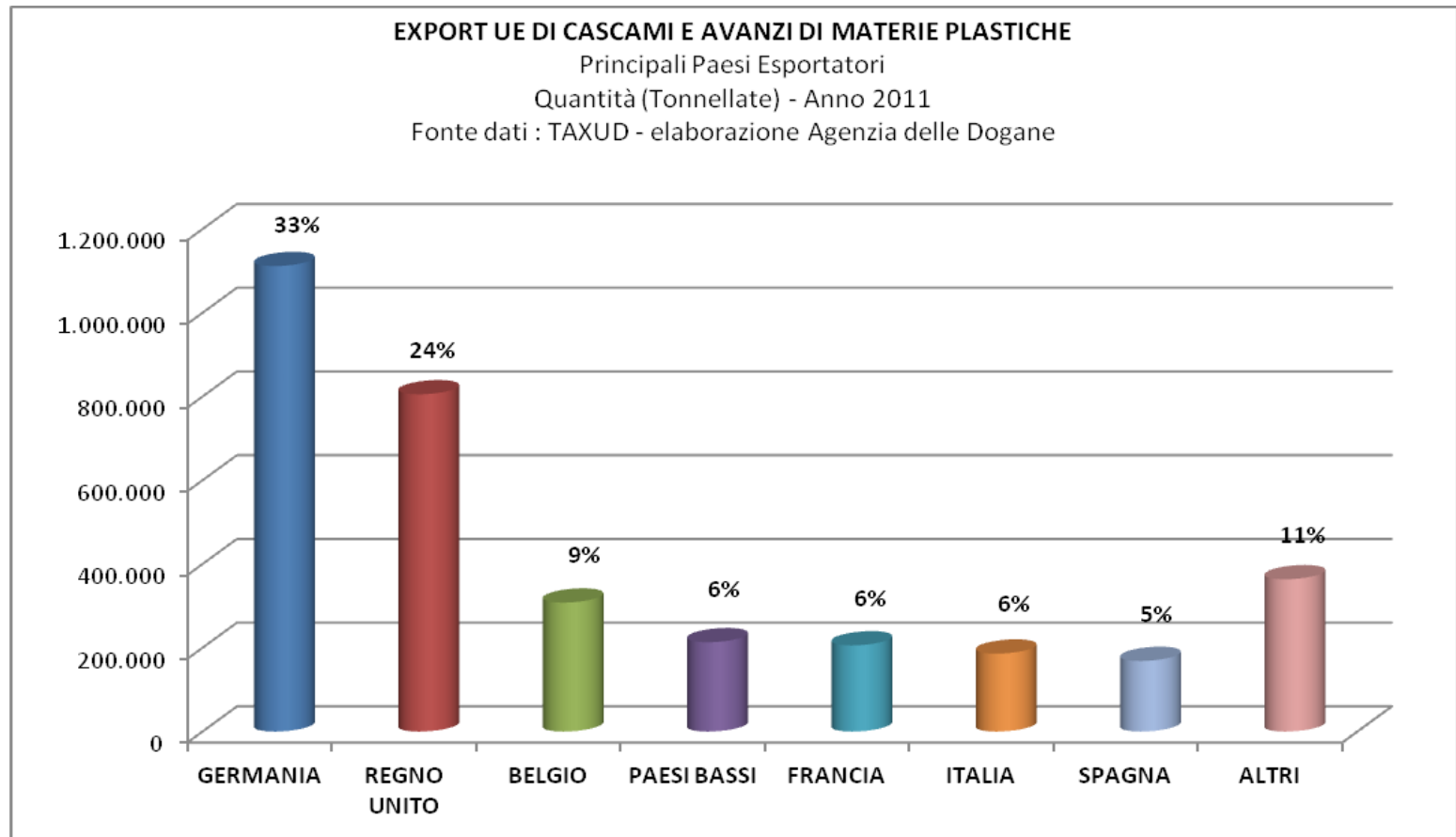


N°	MERCE	QUANT.	Ufficio	Orig	Prov	Dest
		Kg				
1	METALLI	3.296.987	VENEZIA	RU	RU	Brescia
2	PLASTICA	1.034.850	GENOVA	IT	IT	CN
3	CARTA E CARTONE	241.440	VENEZIA	IT	IT	CN
4	PLASTICA	186.440	ANCONA	IT	IT	CN
5	PLASTICA	176.760	LIVORNO	IT	IT	HK
6	PLASTICA	122.550	VENEZIA	IT	IT	CN
7	PLASTICA	114.280	VENEZIA	IT	IT	CN
8	PLASTICA	105.640	CATANIA	IT	IT	CN
9	METALLI	102.920	RAVENNA	IT	IT	CN
10	PLASTICA	99.900	VENEZIA	IT	IT	CN
11	PLASTICA	89.280	CIVITAVECCHIA	IT	IT	CN
12	METALLI	83.860	VENEZIA	IT	IT	CN
13	METALLI	81.440	RAVENNA	IT	IT	CN
14	PLASTICA	76.400	VENEZIA	IT	IT	HK
15	PLASTICA	76.000	RAVENNA	IT	IT	CN
16	PLASTICA	71.920	VENEZIA	IT	IT	CN
17	PLASTICA	68.860	CIVITAVECCHIA	IT	IT	CN
18	METALLI	63.310	TARANTO	IL	IL	NL
19	PLASTICA	62.000	RAVENNA	IT	IT	CN
20	PLASTICA	54.500	RAVENNA	IT	IT	CN
21	PLASTICA	52.190	NAPOLI 1	IT	IT	CN
22	PLASTICA	47.400	LIVORNO	IT	IT	CN
23	CUOIO E PELLI	45.490	LIVORNO	IT	IT	HK
Tot seq. più significativi		6.348.417				
Altri sequestri		1.026.344				
Totale KG Anno 2011		7.374.761				
Totale PEZZI Anno 2011		794				



One of the most used concealment technique is to hide electronic waste behind a front row of pc monitors packed up and still functioning.

We just considering...

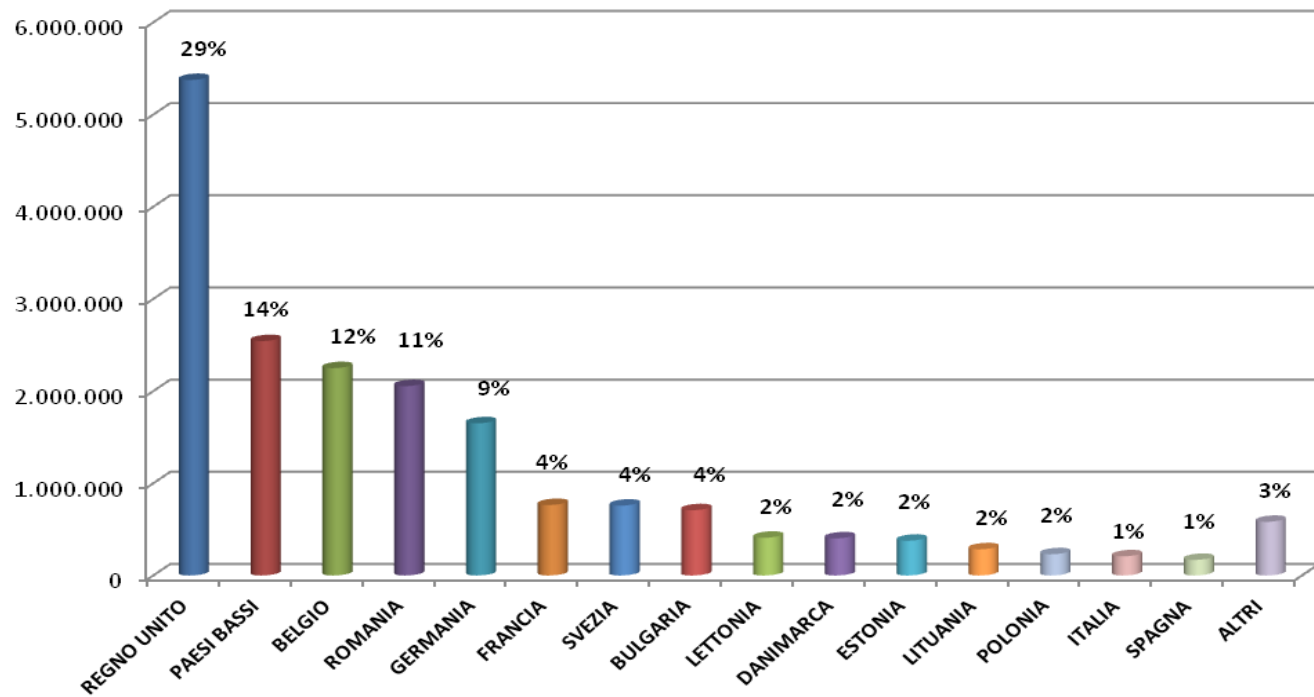


EXPORT UE DI CASCAMI E AVANZI DI GHISA, FERRO E ACCIAIO

Principali Paesi Esportatori

Quantità (Tonnellate) - Anno 2011

Fonte dati : TAXUD - elaborazione Agenzia delle Dogane



East and west waste

- Italian companies pay about 60.000 € to dispose legally a container full of 15.000 tons of hazardous waste.
- The same amount of waste can be disposed illegally for 5.000 € in eastern countries.





Potete vedere tutti che questi in realtà sono teloni agricoli, contaminati da terriccio e sostanze come antiparassitari, fertilizzanti, concimi chimici....

A proposito di bottigliette di plastica. Questa foto ritrae l'apertura di un container che secondo la dichiarazione presentata dai professionisti e dall'esportatore doveva contenere cascami di polietilene:



Invece le bottiglie erano ancora come sono state trovate nei cassonetti, senza che avessero ricevuto alcun trattamento di separazione, bonifica da carta, ferro, sostanze estranee.

Operation “Demeter” may 2009

- Is the first international operation directed by the World customs organization (Wco)
- It involved 64 nations and seized over 30.000 tons of hazardous waste

Operation “Great wall”

In 2007 Police forces in Reggio Calabria together with the Customs office stopped a great illegal waste traffic in Gioia Tauro harbour. Cargos were sailing to China, India, Russia and North Africa.

“Great wall” in numbers

Inside the 135 seized containers

- 740 tons of plastic
- 1.570 tons of metals
- 150 tons of electricity meters
- 700 tons of paper
- 10 tons of car parts and tires



The kind of waste sized in Gioia Tauro harbour ready to leave to the chinese villages to be sorted and processed without any care for workers health and for the environment.







The harbours

- Seaports are the places where most of the illegal trafficking happen.
- In the coming and going containers, waste, protected animal species, expired or counterfeit food, etc... are often hidden



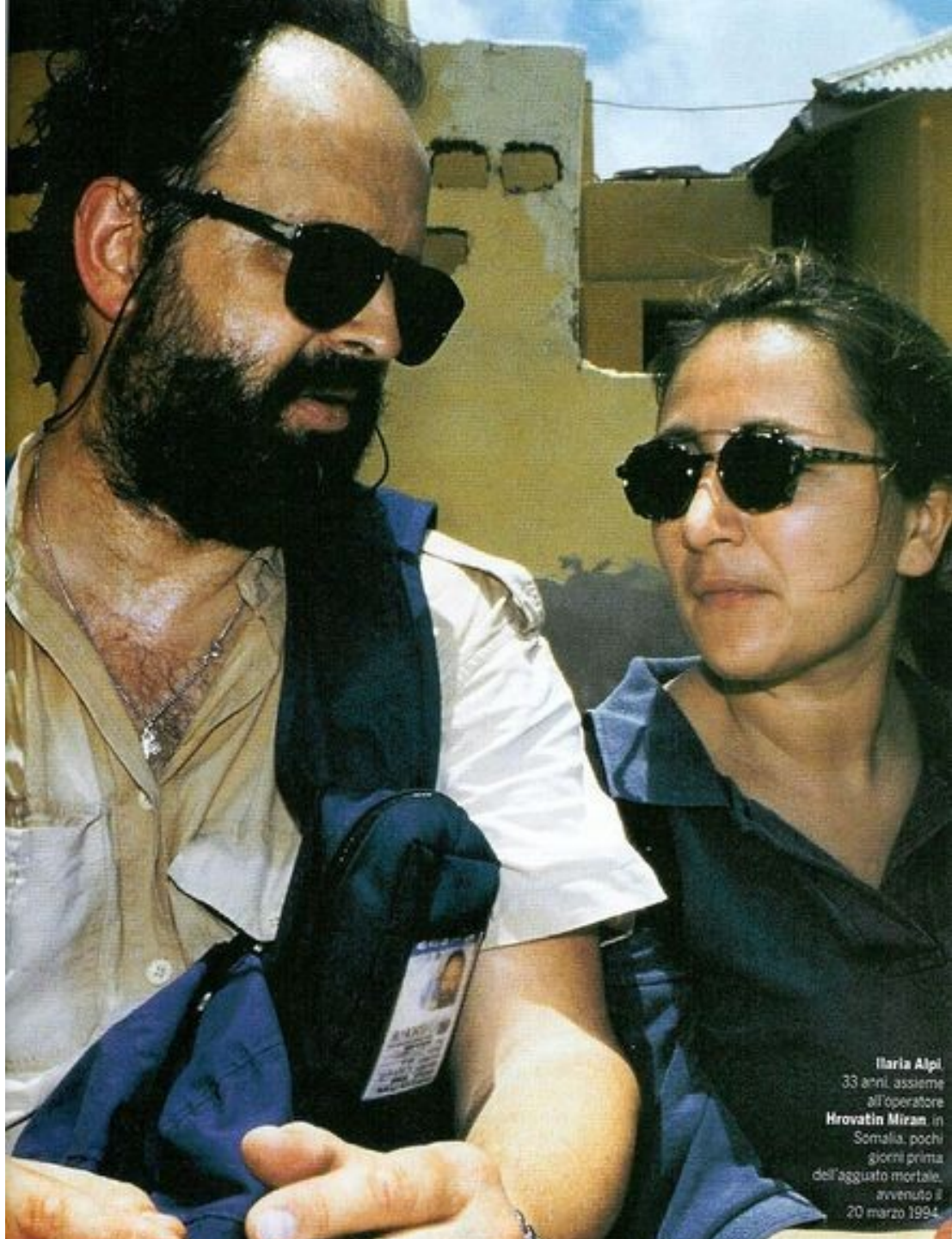
The mystery of Poisoned Shipments

- A lot of official documents speak about the illicit sinkings. In 2001 parliamentary special commission wrote about 39 wrecks in the mediterranean sea full of chemical and nuclear waste.
- Italian public tv journalists Ilaria Alpi and Miran Hrovatin were killed in Mogadiscio in 1994 while investigating on waste and arms illicit trafficking from Italy to Somalia.
- Navy investigator Natale De Grazia died in 1995 (in unclear circumstances) while he was searching the truth about the suspicious sinking of 27 ships.





EDEN V



Ilaria Alpi.
33 anni, assieme
all'operatore
Mroatin Miran, in
Somalia, pochi
giorni prima
dell'agguato mortale,
avvenuto il
20 marzo 1994.

Eu directive 2008/99/ce

- It finally introduced in Europe the protection of the environment through criminal law, giving a common legislation to all the Eu countries
- The Italian Parliament transposed the act on June 2010. A year later (july 2011) the Italian Government has ratified it (Decreto n.145), so the Directive became law
- In concrete, in Italy nothing has been changed

- Only through the cooperation between Customs, Police forces and Public prosecutor offices of all the countries it will be possible to settle an effective control and punishment politivity.
- EU countries should share best practice
- It's also necessary to strenghten the EU legislation and the intelligence activity against the illegal movements of waste.




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Touring Club