



Office of the Executive Director

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box 4024
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1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia



27 October 2020

To: **E. Grafakos**
The General Secretary of Waste Management Coordination
General Secretariat of Waste Management Coordination
Directorate of Waste Management
Ministry of Environment & Energy
119, Mesogeion Avenue, 115 26
Athens, Greece

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Ref: **ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF PLASTIC WASTE TO LIBERIA**

We refer to the above subject matter and various correspondence related thereto.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thankfully acknowledges your communication dated 23 September 2020. Appreciative note has been taken of your conclusion that “[...] the Ministry of Environment and Energy, as competent authority for transboundary waste shipments, considers this waste shipment to be an illegal shipment”.

We note the undertaking made by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece to have the illegal waste shipped back to Greece as stated in paragraph (3) of the above referenced communication, together with its consideration of the costs involved in the repatriation of the waste as stated in paragraph (4).

The Environmental Protection Agency wishes to inform you that in addition to the violation of the provisions of the *Basel Convention* and *European Union Regulations (EC) 1013/2006* and *1418/2007 as amended by Regulation (EC) 733/2014*, the entity or person that is responsible for the illegal shipment of the plastic waste to Liberia is also in violation of Section 55 of the *Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML)* of Liberia, and is liable for such violation. We also wish to draw your attention to the provisions of the *Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Protocol)* to which Liberia is a Party.

As the Competent Authority in Liberia responsible for the restoration and the implementation of remedial measures, the Environmental Protection Agency hereby issues notice to the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece of the costs incurred and penalties attached to this illegal shipment of hazardous waste. This financial liability currently stands at USD 30,265,760 as at October 27, 2020, detailed as follows:

Website: <http://www.epa.gov.lr>

Mobile: +231886454493/+231776454493

Email: dngeorge@epa.gov.lr

No.	Description	Costs	Amount (USD)
1.	Impounding of four 40ft containers	USD 60 per container per day for the first 60 days	14,400
2.	Impounding of four 40ft containers	USD 120 per container per day for 237 days	113,760
3.	Impounding of four Load Bed Trucks	USD 200 per truck per day for 42 days	33,600
4.	Anticipated export cost from the Port of Monrovia to Port of Athens	-	54,000
5.	Damages under the <i>EPML</i>	-	50,000
6.	Damages under the <i>Basel Protocol</i>	-	30,000,000
TOTAL			30,265,760

In view of the foregoing, the EPA requests that:

1. the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece take appropriate action to immediately have the illegal waste shipped back to Greece within a period of 30 days; and
2. the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece take judicial notice of the financial liabilities hereto attached which currently stand at USD 30,265,760.00 (United States Dollars Thirty Million Two Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty) as at October 27, 2020. This amount will continue to increase until this illegal waste shipment is removed from our jurisdiction, after which an invoice will be sent to you.

We thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter and look forward your response and action.

Yours faithfully,


Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh

cc: Basel Convention Focal Point, Liberia
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Basel Action Network (BAN)
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jpuckett@ban.org

Greenpeace Greece
Attn. Mr. Alkis Kafetzis, Oceans Campaigner
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