

Expert Group III: Illicit trafficking of waste: an international emergency

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“PolieCo Experience in view of an ethic maturity within the recycling sector”
(Abstract translated from Italian language)

The economic and financial crisis disclosed the limits to the development already foreseen in the 1972 Report to the Club of Rome, entitled *Limits to growth*, which raised worldwide the debate on the limits to our quantitative and material growth in a world with evident bio-physical limits.

Nowadays, also due to the evolution of the climate change (with all the consequences at environmental level, regarding the food farming productions and the social dynamics linked to the transmigrations of people) it is necessary to completely reconsider the development model by combining together three factors: economy, environment and society.

In the field of waste management and recycling of materials/equipments, some worrying dynamics have been developing. On one side they represent market distortions, and on the other side they pose serious harm to the environment and to the human health.

In some countries, such as China, India, Brazil and Kenya, where the plague of child labour is particularly spread, mainly children and women are carrying out these activities that pose their mental and psychological health seriously at risk. What is even worst, it is the fact that the goods produced in such places, with such modalities, are the same goods that we use to buy everyday.

Moreover, evidences show that the illicit trafficking of waste is particularly connected to other forms of crime, such as counterfeiting, and in particular food counterfeiting.

If the production of goods in a way that is sustainable for the environment is the new challenge for both national and international companies, common rules are needed in order to facilitate the controls and to take off the possibilities for profits for the illicit actors.

This means that **Training, Legality and Ethics** are the new pillars to start building the new Green Economy and the new system of international rules that many actors are demanding. Otherwise, the aim of “entire human development” (integrated in the natural environment) will be only a dream.