



Statement ORICA Case

The European Union for the Responsible Incineration and Treatment of Special waste (EURITS) fully supports the four principles around which the European Union articulates its waste management policy: prevention, polluter pays, precautionary and proximity principles.

The proximity principle implies that waste must be disposed of at the nearest suitable waste disposal facility. This principle has been introduced to reduce the waste transportation to a minimum and to avoid the phenomenon of “waste tourism” consisting of transporting waste to countries with low waste disposal standards.

However, criticisms on the planned shipment of 22,000 tons of polluted material in the form of HCB-contaminated hazardous waste from Australia to Germany illustrate the limit of the proximity principle when dogmatically applied.

The decision to transport this waste to Germany has primarily been made on the ground that the southern hemisphere does not have any suitable waste disposal facility for this type of hazardous waste. The one-off shipment to hazardous waste incineration plants in Germany, operating at the highest technical standards in the world, has been considered by the authorities and experts as the best option to rule out any public health risk that could occur if the special waste were to be treated in a nearby ill equipped plant to deal with such waste.

The shipment of hazardous waste must remain an option in the future to ensure that the best equipped (which is not always the nearest) plant can be selected to treat special waste in the safest possible way.

EURITS supports the statement by the Federal Association of German Hazardous Waste Incineration Plants (BDSAV) that you can also find on our website.

EURITS
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