

MONITORING TRADE IN PLASTIC WASTE AND SCRAP



The global export volume of plastic waste has decreased by almost a half over the past 6 years.

49% DECREASE IN PAST 6 YEARS

12.4 MILLION TONS



6.3 MILLION TONS

Countries trade plastic waste and scrap increasingly with partners in their region.

In 2022, regional exports of plastic waste reached

79% in OECD Europe



66% in OECD North America



OECD countries are transitioning from export dependence to a more neutral trade balance.

In 2022, OECD countries' decreased exports while imports increased.



GLOBAL EXPORT VOLUMES DECLINED BY 4.9% BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022



IN CONTRAST, THE SHARE OF PLASTIC WASTE EXPORTED TO OR TRADED AMONGST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INCREASED BY 15%



Under the **Basel Convention**, countries report on certain amounts traded.

In 2021, OECD countries reported 17,193 tonnes of plastic waste trade subject to the PIC* procedure, which promotes shared responsibility and cooperation in the global trade of hazardous chemicals.



THIS IS SMALL COMPARED TO 5.2 MT OF PLASTIC WASTE EXPORTS REPORTED BY THESE COUNTRIES TO UN COMTRADE

* Prior Informed Consent

Read more on monitoring trade in plastic waste and scrap

Read more: oe.cd/il/plastic-trade



Read the paper