

European Union Network for
the Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law



IMPEL

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The mission of IMPEL is to contribute to protecting the environment by promoting the effective implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law.



Who we are

IMPEL is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the European Union, EEA and EFTA countries. The association is registered in Belgium and has 47 members from 33 countries including all EU Member States, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law.

The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. IMPEL facilitates awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organization, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 6th Environment Action Program and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

” IMPEL is very important as it is a forum for practitioners in the environmental field to share information and transfer knowledge in an informal manner, including discussing difficulties and sharing best practices. We feel that we have learnt a lot through IMPEL, for instance the use of IMPEL's checklist on enforceability and applicability of EU legislation during the assessment of proposed legislation and the transposition of EU legislation into national legislation has led to improvements in MEPA's assessment of proposed EU environment legislation and transposition procedure.

Suzanne Gauci, Malta



Summary of Multi Annual Strategic Programme

IMPEL will achieve its aim through four goals to:

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| Promote more coherent design and implementation of environmental law | Build the capacity of IMPEL members | Collaborate with partners and stakeholders | Improve programme and project management |
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PRIORITIES for 2013-15 – IMPEL projects will focus on:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem areas of implementation identified by IMPEL or the European Commission. Improving controls on trans-frontier shipment of waste. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making use of IMPEL review initiatives (IRIs). Assisting members to implement new legislation and improve existing implementation. |
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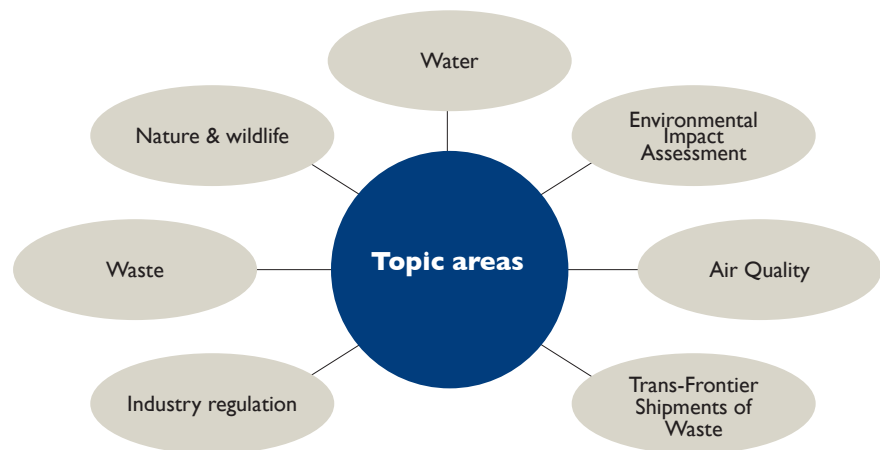
Promoting the development of national networks of environmental authorities

As the recent 2012 Communication on Implementation (COM(2012) 95 FINAL) states, networks within member states make a significant contribution to implementation and enforcement. An Irish EPA report states: "the IMPEL model has been replicated in Ireland through the establishment of the Environmental Enforcement Network (EEN)...International best practice in enforcement is determined through participation in the IMPEL Network". The same IMPEL model has also inspired Spain and its regional authorities to develop the REDIA network.

What we do

The Association seeks to:

- promote the exchange of information and experience between environmental authorities (e.g. ministries, regulators, agencies and inspectorates)
- promote the development of national networks of environmental authorities with special concern for the cooperation between these authorities at all government levels
- promote mutual understanding of the common characteristics and differences of national regulatory systems
- carry out joint enforcement projects
- support, encourage and facilitate capacity building and training of inspectors and enforcers
- identify and develop good and, whenever possible, best practices; produce guidance, tools and common standards and actively contribute to further improvements as regards inspection, permitting, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of EU environmental law
- develop a greater consistency of approach
- provide feedback and advice on better regulation issues with regard to practicability and enforceability of new and existing EU environmental law to the European Commission and other EU Institutions, gathering information on experience of implementing and enforcing this law, from the practitioners point of view
- explore the use of innovative regulatory and non-regulatory instruments as alternatives for or complementary to existing regulation.



About IMPEL

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest authority within the IMPEL Association. The General Assembly determines the policy of the association and decides on the budget and the working programmes. The Assembly is also the body which approves project proposals and final project reports.

The General Assembly meets at least once a year and is hosted by the country holding the Presidency of the European Union. The members in one country have one vote, exercised by their National IMPEL Coordinator or their National IMPEL representative.



The Clusters

Currently there are two Clusters. A Cluster explores, develops and discusses proposals for new projects. It reviews ongoing projects and provides advice on draft reports and the follow up of completed projects.

The Cluster on permitting, inspection & enforcement focuses on organisational, legal, practical and technical aspects of permitting, inspection and enforcement, to help ensure that existing and proposed European environmental legislation is practicable, enforceable and explores complementary approaches. The IMPEL TFS Cluster aims at improving the enforcement of the EU Regulation on Trans-Frontier Shipments of Waste.

The Board

The Board is the executive body of the Association. The Board is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Association and the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. The Board drafts the budget, the working programs and the annual report of the activities of the Association. The Board manages and allocates the funds of the Association in accordance with the budget approved by the General Assembly.

The Board represents the Association in external contacts and supervises the Secretariat. The Board comprises the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the IMPEL Secretariat, the National IMPEL Coordinators or the National IMPEL Representatives of the last, present and next country holding the presidency of the European Union, and the Chairs or Co-chairs of the Clusters.

The Secretariat

IMPEL has at present one full time role whose job it is to coordinate the network's activities, arrange Board and General Assembly meetings, support the projects and project managers, manage the finances of the network and maintain internal and external communications such as the website or with other relevant networks and organisations.

“IMPEL is certainly the cheapest possible form of multilateral cooperation which Member States are obliged to ensure under the EU Waste Shipment Regulation, and thanks to the commitment and unpaid extra work of many participants it is certainly much more efficient than many other forms of international cooperation.”

Thomas Ormond, Germany

Support, encourage and facilitate capacity building and training

IMPEL's EU Africa project has facilitated contact with enforcement agencies in Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Egypt. Through this project one of IMPEL's members helped train 20 individuals from various African countries on European legislation and in Egypt specifically she helped train 30 individuals on detection and return of illegal shipments of waste.



“We recently had 89 containers returned from Indonesia. At the time, the shipping line was struggling to obtain consent from Egypt for the return to pass through the Suez Canal. Through IMPEL, one of our staff has been closely involved in an EU Africa project which involved providing training in Egypt on the repatriation procedure – we were able to use the contacts that were made and developed during this project to ensure the consent from the Suez canal was issued, thus avoiding further costs to the shipping line/ original exporter.”



Vicky Rockingham, England & Wales, UK

Develop good and, whenever possible, best practices

The IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) is a peer review process that the network's members undergo to bench-mark themselves against each other and gain valuable advice on what is working well and what is not working so well. In Croatia for example they have recently developed e-learning tools for their new inspectors following a recommendation from the IRI team. In Portugal, the inspectorate has introduced multi-annual objectives, a new model for their inspection reports, different intervention strategies, changes to the way they raise revenue (e.g. they now receive a portion of their waste tax), and an improved method for targeting environmental outcome in their inspection planning for IPPC sites. In Slovenia, they have now implemented a 'Frequently Answered Questions' page on their website for the public, have prepared consolidated versions of regulations for inspectors and made their annual work plan publicly available. In Scotland, introducing refresher training (SEPA has over 40 internal training courses on regulatory issues but historically gave no refresher training) has helped staff to maintain competency.



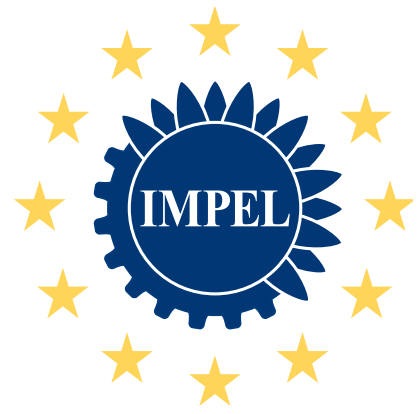
IMPEL Member Organisations

	Austria Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management lebensministerium.at
	Austria Land Salzburg
	Belgium Brussels Institute for Environmental Management
	Belgium Flemish Government Department of the Environment, Nature and Energy
	Belgium Service Public Wallonia
	Belgium The Flemish High Council of Environmental Enforcement
	Belgium Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food-Chain Safety and Environment
	Bulgaria Ministry of Environment and Water
	Croatia Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
	Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
	Czech Republic Czech Environmental Inspectorate
	Denmark Danish Environmental Protection Agency

	Estonia Ministry of Environment of Estonia
	Finland Ministry of the Environment
	France Ministry of ecology, energy, sustainable development, and town and country planning
	Germany Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
	Greece Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change
	Hungary National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water
	Iceland Environment Agency of Iceland
	Ireland Environmental Protection Agency
	Ireland Dublin City Council National TFS office
	Italy Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea
	Italy ISPRA
	Italy ARPA Lombardia

	Latvia The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia
	Lithuania Environment Protection Agency
	Luxembourg Administration de l'Environnement
	Malta Malta Environment and Planning Authority
	FYR Macedonia Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
	Netherlands Association of the Dutch Provinces
	Netherlands Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate
	Norway Norwegian Environment Agency
	Poland Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
	Portugal General Inspectorate for the Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning (IGAMAOT)
	Romania National Environmental Guard
	Romania Lider of Territorial Water Inspection, Apa Somes Tisa Water Basin Administration

	Slovak Republic Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment
	Slovenia The Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture and The Environment
	Spain Environmental Inspection Authority of the Basque Government
	Spain Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Affairs
	Sweden Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
	Sweden Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
	Switzerland Federal Office for the Environment
	United Kingdom Environment Agency England
	United Kingdom Northern Ireland Environment Agency
	United Kingdom Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
	Turkey General Directorate of Environmental Manage- ment, Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry



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