

## Newsletter Issue 6/2024

### **New Environmental Crime Directive to become operational**

Environmental crime is a growing concern and causes significant damage to the environment, citizens' health and the economy within the EU and worldwide.

Environmental crimes are infringements of relevant legal obligations, such as wildlife crimes and deterioration of habitats, illegal shipment or dumping of waste, pollution crimes and illegal trading in hazardous substances.

These crimes, which often have a cross-border nature, are highly lucrative and yet hard to detect, prosecute and punish. Unfortunately, these factors make it highly attractive for organised crime groups. Research shows that environmental crime is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest organised crime activity, with an annual growth rate of 5 to 7% and a damage/loss of 80 to 230 billion EUR.

The new Environmental Crime Directive (EU) 2024/1203 was adopted and entered into force this year, supporting the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing the old 2008 Environmental Crime Directive.

EWA NEWS present you the key elements of the Directive and a link to the full version (available in all EU languages).