Challenges for International Waste Management
24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
Mag. Georg Ketzler
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Saubermacher
An international waste management and recycling company

59 participations
3,200 employees
42,000 customers
300 M € turnover

Middle East

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International waste management faces big challenges

- Continuous increase in environmental pollution
- Huge differences in environmental standards
- Illegal export of waste streams („Waste takes the cheapest way!”)
- Urgent need for reduction of CO₂
- Significant growth of demand for resources
- Disproportionate rise in global waste production

Concrete Issue: Disappearance of waste streams

Examples:

- Cars: 250,000 vehicles for scrapping in Austria per year. → Only 50,000 cars are processed in high-standard shredding facilities in Austria!

- Electronical waste: significant amounts are illegally exported to Asia or Africa
„Standards” of processing of illegally exported waste

Example: Modern waste management in the Middle East
Saubermacher’s Lessons Learned

- Awareness & commitment on site
- Step-by-step proceeding
- Environmental education
- Know-How transfer

Important: Step-by-step proceeding

- Collection & systematic depositing
- Enforcement of separated collection to reduce amounts deposited
- Reinforced recycling
How could OSCE help?

- Raising awareness of the importance of the waste industry
- Creation of homogenous legal regulations & standards
- Ending illegal waste export. Only allowing exports if environmental standards are sufficiently high.
- Support with monitoring the compliance of legal regulations
- Provide know-how transfer

Conclusion

There is a need to switch from national waste management autarky to real cross-border concepts. We’re all in the same boat called „earth“.
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