

**Enrico Fontana**

**Responsible for the Observatory Environment and Legality, Legambiente**

**The organized illicit trafficking of waste in Italy**

The data published every year by Legambiente within the Ecomafia Report do not leave room for doubt: in 2011, with regard to the illegal cycle of waste, the law enforcement agencies in Italy acknowledged 5284 offences, with 5830 people accused, 122 arrests carried out and 1889 seizures. The three regions more affected by the illicit activities are, in order, Campania, Calabria and Puglia - the datum actually confirms the particular incidence of these phenomena in territories traditionally characterized for the presence of the Mafia – followed by Lombardy, Latium, Tuscany, Sardinia and, at the eight position, Sicily.

The diffusion at national level of illegal practices in the waste management cycle is confirmed also by the datum concerning the judicial inquiries carried out in Italy according to the article 260 of the Environment Code, which sanctions the organized activity of illicit trafficking of waste. Legambiente registered 199 investigations from 2002 to 2012, covering 19 regions out of 20 (only Valle d'Aosta is excluded). 87 Public Prosecutor's Offices have been involved, equally distributed among North (30), Centre (27) and South of Italy (30). People arrested during these investigations have been 1229; 3654 people charged and 676 companies involved.

The traffickers are moving more and more over the Italian borders. Tons of plastic materials, paper, glass, metals are illegally transported into China, India, Malaysia, Tunisia, Ivory Coast and Senegal. 23 States are involved in investigations started in Italy (10 European countries, 5 Asiatic countries and 8 African countries).