

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASEL CONVENTION IN AUSTRIA**

(Österreichweite Umsetzung des Basel Übereinkommens)

### **Name of Supreme Audit Institution**

Österreichischer Rechnungshof (Austrian Court of Audit)

### **Title of summary report on audit findings**

Report; Wahrnehmungsbericht des Rechnungshofes Reihe Bund 2004/4; published in June 2004

### **Audit issues**

Waste, international commitments

### **Audit type**

Combined audit

### **Description of the Audit**

The aim of the audit was to investigate whether the commitments of the Convention are met. The economic and efficient control mechanisms of transboundary waste transports were evaluated.

The audit was undertaken by the Austrian Court of Audit on its own initiative. It was conducted in October 2003.

### **Scope of audit**

development of the legal framework

achieving of legal goals

objectives and their achievement, especially concerning the ambition of preventing waste generation and the autarky in waste management

efficiency of the notification system

### **Audited units**

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

### **Summary of the audit findings and evaluation of the audited activities**

In general the notification system and the implemented control mechanisms were working well.

Only 19 per cent of the notifications were formally correct and complete and only about 40 per cent of the allowed contingents were utilised.

Although the authority has to prohibit an export, when the notifier has already been penalised twice, there was no comprehensive database concerning penalties. Therefore there was no possibility to prohibit the export permits.

The regulation of the European Union prefers the principle of shortest transport, the Basel Convention the principle of autarky. As long as there is no comprehensive planning all over Europe, the Court of Audit recommends striving for autarky.

As a securance for transports only unlimited bank-guarantees should be accepted.

### **Addressees of the summary report on audit findings**

The report was forwarded to the Nationalrat (federal legislation) of Austria

### **Results of the audit**

A new electronic database will be established.



Details of the notification system were improved, following the recommendations of the Court of Audit.

In future only unlimited bank-guarantees will be accepted.

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