

Herten, den **11.12.2008**

PRO - Herten: J. Jürgens, Schützenstr.84, 45699 Herten
Hon. Peter Garrett AM, MP
Minister for the Environment
PO BOX 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT
AUSTRALIA 2600

Dear Mr. Minister Peter Garrett,

with regret I have noticed, that you are considering to deal with the HCB waste of the company Orica and might be poised to grant approval to have the waste exported to Europe for waste disposal.

We believe this project is illegal. For this reason, your German colleagues - Minister Uhlenberg, also Minister von Boetticher – have prohibited the imports to Germany.

The export violates clearly against the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention. If you claim that Australia is a civilized industrial nation, then Australia should own national disposal facilities, and I quote our Prime Minister Uhlenberg: "We are not willing to solve the missing acceptance of the Australian population regarding the waste disposal problems in their own country."

In Europe, less waste is being burned, we rather prefer the reprocessing and recycling. For this reason we have excess capacity in incinerators. Therefore you might find easy acceptance and willingness of these operators to solve your problem. We currently have enough acceptance problems with the garbage from Italy (Naples). In our population as a result of this situation we speak of a "garbage mafia". Your country should be civilized enough not to be put into the same corner.

Following your press: "Botany clean-up may take a century - Ben Cubby and Nidhi Prakash November 27, 2008" one comes to the conclusion that you have deferred your problem for so long until you have supposedly got rid of any national solution.

But this is an Australian and not an European problem. For an African developing country, with which you probably do not even want to be compared, different standards would apply!

I do not know if you will be able to manage your problem by the possible illegal export. The image damage you finally add to your country, should not be underestimated by you.

In the hope that the deep insight will win within you, I remain

Yours sincerely and merry Christmas, also happy new year

Joachim Juergens, "NGO Pro-Herten"

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