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The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and has the honour to enclose herewith an information note regarding the updates of the waste imports banned in 2021 within the scope of the 13th Article of "Turkish Environmental Law No: 2872" and "Communique on Import Inspection of Wastes under Control in terms of Environmental Protection".

The Embassy would highly appreciate if the Esteemed Ministry could kindly inform the relevant Lithuanian environmental and trading authorities accordingly.

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vilnius, 4th August 2021



**Encl:** As stated

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
the Republic of Lithuania**

**VILNIUS**

## BANS ON WASTE IMPORTS IN 2021

In accordance with the provision in the Article 13 of the Turkish Environmental Law No. 2872, "The Ministry of Trade may ban or subject the import of some fuels, substances, wastes, hazardous chemicals and articles containing such chemicals to control, in line with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization's (MoEU) assessments". Central and Provincial Directorates of the MoEU are the responsible bodies for undertaking import procedures and transactions within the framework of the Communiqués published every year.

As foreseen in the "Communiqué on Import Inspection of Wastes under Control in terms of Environmental Protection" published within the scope of the aforementioned Article, some non-hazardous wastes are handled in a controlled manner. They can be imported through receiving a certificate of compliance after a detailed inspection by the Provincial Directorates in 25 specialized customs at the borders, which are equipped with radiation portal monitors. Those alone who have obtained environmental permit and license or temporary activity certificate from the MoEU are allowed to import waste.

Importation of non-recoverable waste and waste for disposal are prohibited. Wastes that are not compliant with the physical inspection are returned to the country of origin. In order to import waste in a way that will add value to our country's economy without causing environmental harm, a quota has been introduced as of January 1, 2020, allowing companies to import not more than 50 percent of their plants' recycling capacity.

Harmonized System Codes<sup>1</sup> of mixed, dirty and contaminated plastic wastes whose exact nature is unknown are added to the list of "Import Prohibited Wastes" annexed to the "Communiqué on Import Inspection of Wastes under Control in terms of Environmental Protection (Product Safety and Inspection: 2021/3)", which was published in the Official Gazette of date 31.12.2020 and number 31351 (4th Revision), entered into force as of January 1, 2021. **In this framework, the amendments on plastic waste in the Annexes of the Basel Convention have been implemented in Turkey as of January 1, 2021.**

Later on, the importation of polyethylene group plastics was also banned with the amendment in the Communiqué published on 18 May 2021, in order to prevent any circumvention. At the same time, through a monitoring system for imported plastic waste, more stringent controls were introduced such as the requirement for additional documents according to the type of plastic and the requirement for a letter of guarantee from a bank according to annual production capacity, to prevent possible attempts at breaching of regulations.

The types of waste that are prohibited to be imported as of 2021 are listed below:

- GTIP<sup>1</sup> 3915.90.11.90.00 and 3915.90.80.00.19: Mixed types of plastic waste,
- GTIP 7112.91.00.00.00, 7112.92.00.00.00 and 7112.99.00.90.00: Printed circuit boards,
- GTIP 4004.00.00.00.13: Rubber powders,
- Codes 15 01 05: Composite packaging, 15 01 06: Mixed packaging, 16 01 19: Plastic, 16 01 20: Glass, 17 02 01: Wood, 17 02 02: Glass, 17 02 03: Plastic, 19 12 04: Plastic and rubber, 19 12 05: Glass waste.

<sup>1</sup> Further information on Turkish Tariff Nomenclature is available at "<https://www.trade.gov.tr/customs-formalities/frequently-asked-questions/tariff>".