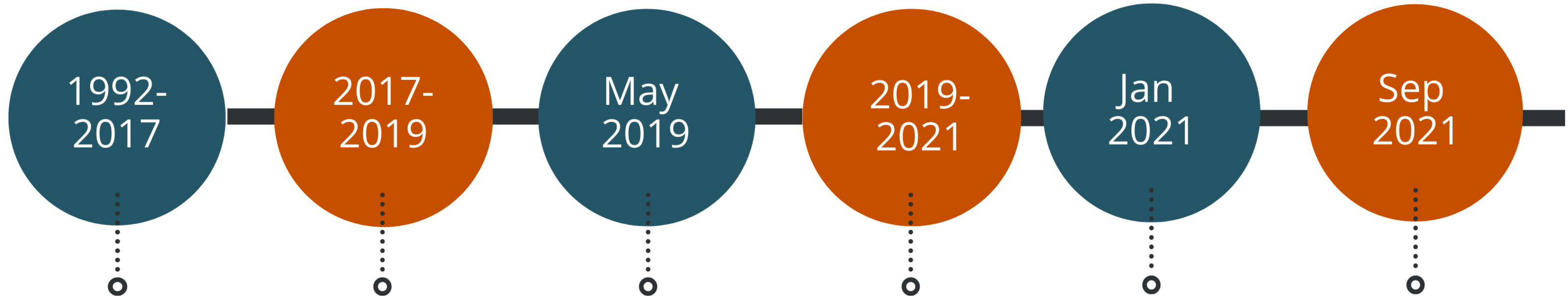


# Plastic waste exports: important dates and facts



Developed nations export plastic waste to China and other developing Asian nations, as well as Turkey, Poland and the Netherlands.

Most of these countries do not have recycling facilities and dump or burn the plastic (incl. the Netherlands)

Many Asian nations realise the pollution problem this creates, especially as the plastic sent is often of low quality or not sorted. Following China, others ban plastic waste imports.

**UN Basel convention treaty** = illegal to export plastic waste to countries if there is a belief that it will not be handled in an environmentally sound manner- 187 countries sign.

Several Asian nations now return non-recyclable plastic shipments to their countries of origin and many only import sorted and high quality plastic waste (e.g. Malaysia)..

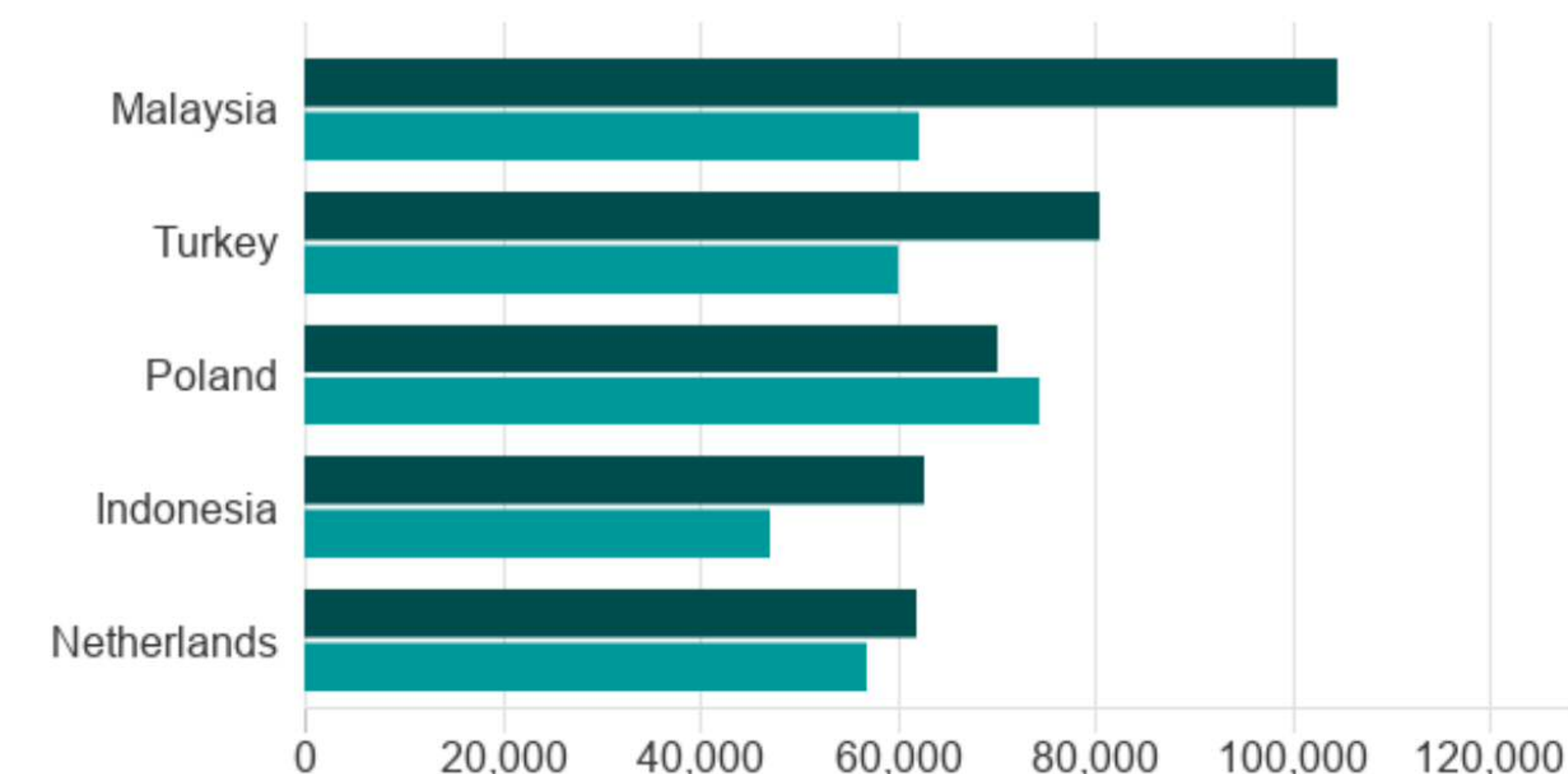
**EU bans** the export of unsorted plastic waste to non-OECD countries and exports to OECD countries and within the EU are highly regulated.

**UK environment bill:** aligns with EU ban and rules of Jan 2021.

## Where does most of the UK's plastic end up?

Exports in tonnes

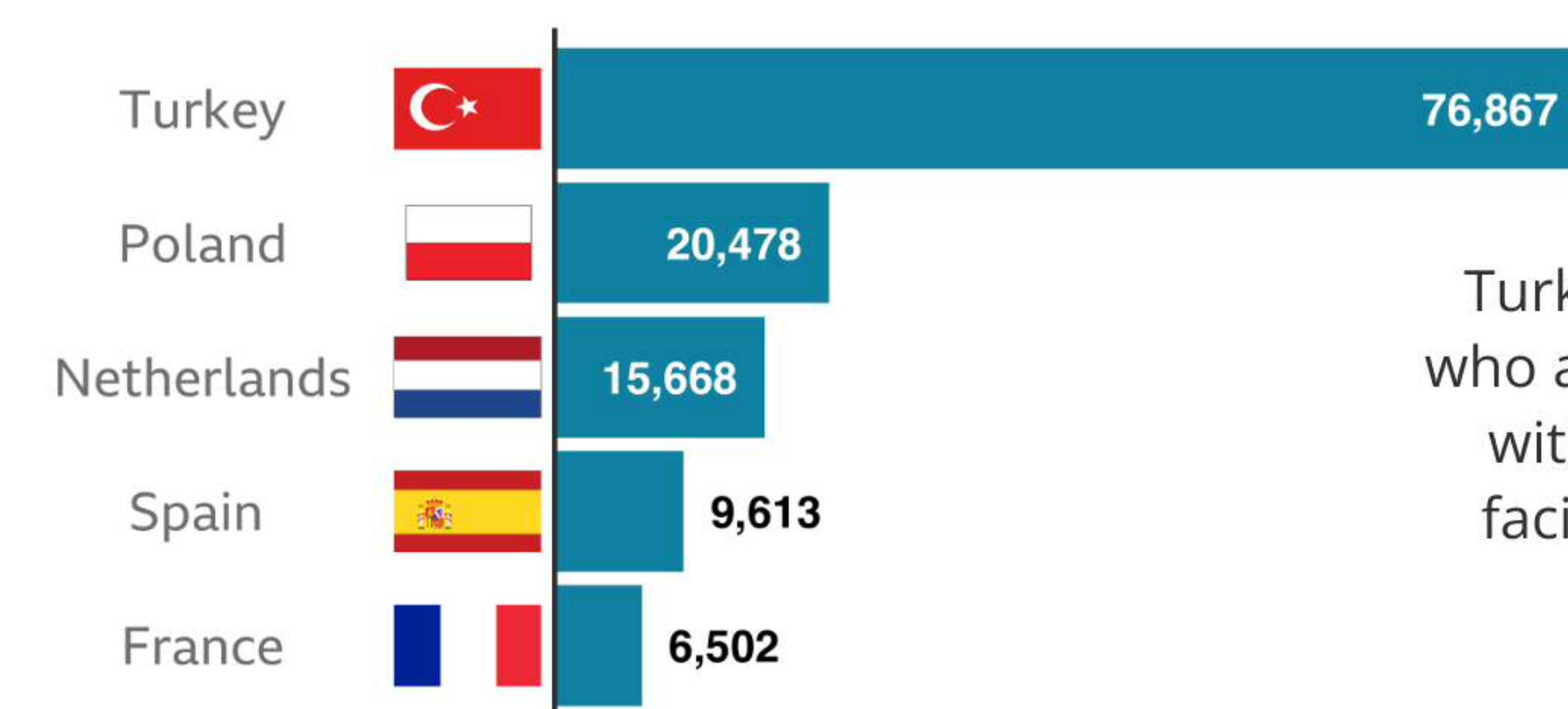
■ Nov 2017 - Oct 2018 ■ Nov 2016 - Oct 2017



Source: Environment Agency Packaging Database

## Top five destinations of UK packaging waste (tonnes)

January to March 2021



From 2 July, almost all imports of plastic waste to Turkey have been banned

Source: Environment Agency, National Packaging Waste Database

Turkey - an OECD country who accepted plastic imports without proper recycling facilities - bans almost all plastic imports.



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