Summary

The effectiveness of classical and alternative regulatory instruments in environmental enforcement

This report contains the contributions of the speakers at the symposium ‘Classical and alternative enforcement in environmental crime’, that was held in December 1997. The aim of this symposium was to investigate the various enforcement modalities from an empirical perspective, focusing on advantages and disadvantages of either modality. Various authors mentioned that contrasting the two modalities is not useful, as the two often appear in mixes in local arrangements. Secondly, it was stated that alternative enforcement, which is generally perceived as risky, often does not turn out to be so in practice; on the other hand, many of the presumed advantages of classical enforcement cannot be achieved because of practical constraints. The various contributions put forward a plea for a differentiated approach to environmental enforcement, in which dependent on various contextual factors, classical and alternative enforcement are used complementary.