

Guo Jing: [Regarding] the importation and use of foreign garbage and solid waste, in the specific development phase in the past, solid waste of certain imported raw materials had played a certain role in making up for the shortage of domestic resources, but as the level of our country's economic and social development constantly improves, importing solid waste that can be used as raw materials has exposed quite a few problems, polluting the environment and harming the health and wellbeing of the general public. In particular, the issue of foreign garbage has progressed to the point of provoking a public outcry. Some countries transfer solid waste to other countries by various means, and some even export it illegally. As a matter of fact, in order to effectively control the transfer of hazardous waste among various countries, the international community formulated the "Basel Convention" in 1989, and China is also a signatory to this Convention. It is stipulated in this Convention that exportation of hazardous waste must be approved by the competent authority of the importing country, which is also an international measure to control foreign garbage. We must also notice that a small number of non-law-abiding merchants both in China and abroad are illegally importing or smuggling foreign garbage for their own interests, causing many environmental problems. They must be subject to a serious crackdown, investigation, and prosecution.

The Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council pay great attention to the protection of the ecosystem and environment and the management of importation of solid waste. In particular, President Xi Jinping presided over a special and important meeting in April this year to review and pass the "Implementation Plan for Banning the Entry of Foreign Garbage and Promoting Management System Reform with Regard to Importation of Solid Waste." At the meeting it was noted that the focus must be on protecting the safety of China's ecosystem and environment and the

health and wellbeing of the people. The management system with regard to the importation of solid waste must be improved, by setting timetables for banning the importation of solid waste based on different industries and different categories, adjusting the catalogue for managing the importation of solid waste by batches and by categories, and drastically reducing the quantity of imported solid waste by integrated use of legal, economic and administrative means. In the meantime we must strengthen the management of the recycling and utilization of solid waste in China and develop a recycling economy. It is also exactly for this purpose that we have first banned the importation of 24 categories of solid waste such as waste plastics, unsorted waste paper, waste raw textile materials, and vanadium slag that pose very high risk of environmental pollution and have led to a strong reaction from the general public, and reported to the authorities under the relevant commission in accordance with the obligation of transparency as required by the WTO.

Moving forward, we will uncompromisingly and conscientiously carry out the Central Government's policy and deployment, and meet the new requirements and new expectations of the people in effectively protecting the safety of the country's ecosystem and environment and the health and wellbeing of the people.

Liu Youbin: Let me add something. Since July 1, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has initiated the specially targeted action of cracking down on the violations of environmental laws by the imported waste processing and utilization industries. You can look at the "Ministry of Environmental Protection Posts" official microblog and WeChat public service account, regarding information released to the public every day on the investigation and prosecution of specially targeted actions.