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Project against Economic Crime (PECK) www.coe.int/peck

Closing Conference

Pristina 28 April 2015

AML/CFT Assessment Report *Preventive Measures*





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Section 3

Preventive Measures: Financial Institutions





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Strengths and Developments of Preventive Regime financial institutions

- Main Law as updated in 2013 provides for a generally overall acceptable preventive regime for financial institutions though not harmonised and lacking important detail.
- Adequate awareness of AML obligations within the financial sector - particularly banking sector.
- Legal supervisory mandate to CBK for entire financial sector through MoU.
- New Regulation to be issued by CBK positively received by industry.
- Various guidance and rules issued by the FIU.





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Weaknesses of Preventive Regime – financial institutions

- Conflicts, inconsistencies and ambiguities in the main Law itself render its application questionable.
- Ambiguity in the timing of application of customer due diligence.
- Inadequacy of reporting obligation no mandate for financial institutions for reporting suspicions related to the financing of terrorism
- Non harmonisation of main Law and current CBK Rules create inconsistencies and ambiguities for an effective implementation.





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Weaknesses of Preventive Regime - financial institutions *continued*

- Legal AML/CFT supervisory mandate to CBK not accompanied by legal application of supervisory powers.
- Legal uncertainty on appointment of competent authority to impose administrative sanctions.
- Inconsistencies in and lack of adequate sanctions.
- Absence of graduated administrative penalties and other sanctions to be applied proportionately to severity of offence.



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Some general overall Recommendations:

- Harmonize AML Law further with international standards and consolidate to remove conflicts, ambiguities and inconsistencies and introduce FT reporting.
- Provide further guidance to the financial sector CBK new Regulation - and ensure effective compliance strengthen the supervisory regime.
- Strengthen the sanctioning regime introduce an effective graduated structure of administrative penalties that are applied by a competent authority in proportion to the severity of the offence.





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Section 4

Preventive Measures: Designated non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs)



Strengths and Developments of Preventive Regime for DNFBPS

- Main Law provides for a generally overall acceptable preventive regime for DNFBPs though not harmonised and lacking important detail.
- Main Law goes beyond the international scope of coverage - covering other areas such as NGOs and Political Parties.
- Main Law provides for specific obligations of sectors of DNFBPs.

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Weaknesses of Preventive Regime for DNFBPs

- Conflicts, inconsistencies and ambiguities in the main Law itself render its application questionable – sectorial division.
- Inadequacy of reporting obligation financing of terrorism. Some DNFBPs not subject to the reporting regime at all.
- Some DNFBPs are not required to establish and maintain internal AML/CFT procedures, policies and controls including to appoint a compliance officer.



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Weaknesses of Preventive Regime for DNFBPs

- Legal uncertainties on the off-site supervisory powers of the FIU.
- No supervisory authority appointed for building construction companies
- Inconsistencies and lack of adequate sanctions; absence of a graduated structure of administrative penalties and legal uncertainty on appointment of competent enforcement authority.
- Lack of clarity on the status of gaming houses and licensed objects of games of chance as reporting subjects.





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Some general overall Recommendations:

- Reconsider the sectorial division of the AML Law and impose harmonized obligations on all DNFBPs and introduce FT reporting.
- Revise sanctioning regime as recommended for the financial sector.
- Clarify in the AML Law the off-site supervisory remit of the FIU.
- Clarify and harmonize status of gaming houses, casinos and licensed object of games of chance in the AML Law.





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Section 5

Legal Persons and Legal Arrangements: Beneficial Ownership



Legal Persons: Strengths of Business Registration Regime

- Comprehensive legislation with an upfront system of business registration.
- KBRA operates through 28 Municipal Centres 'one stop shop' for business registration.
- No need for intermediaries (lawyers, accountants, etc) to register a business organisation - registration can be done online.
- Availability of information to the public through electronic site of KBRA.



Legal Persons: Weaknesses of Business Registration Regime

- Inadequate maintenance, updating and timely availability of information.
- Lack of information relating to beneficial ownership.
- Accuracy of the information available.
- Inadequate due diligence.
- Easiness of registration.





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Legal Persons: Some general overall Recommendations:

- Introduce an obligation for immediate reporting of changes to shareholding and directors.
- Introduce procedures and systems to identify where a person owns more than one business organisation.
- Introduce administrative procedures to ascertain to the extent possible the accuracy of documents and contents.
- Introduce procedures to identify interconnectivity between registered business organisations.
- Introduce measure for accuracy and validity of applications for registration to cater for the short registration period.





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Legal Arrangements: Overview

- There are no specific legal provisions for the establishment of trusts and other legal arrangements – Recommendation 34 *Not Applicable however*
- Pointless and inapplicable legal provisions relating to the establishment and registration of trusts and legal arrangements in Kosovo negatively affects effectiveness.
- the drafting of these legislative provisions, and in particular those of the provisions of the AML/CFT Law must have consisted of the verbatim transposition of the respective FATF Standards.



Legal Arrangements: Some general overall Recommendations:

 Revisit all current sporadic legal provisions regarding trusts and other legal arrangements in particular with reference to the AML/CFT Law to ensure its effective implementation





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Section 5 Non - Profit Organisations





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Strengths and Developments of NGOs Regime

- Comprehensive legislation for registration purposes.
- Adequate coverage of scope of registration.
- Due diligence on founders through checks against lists of designated persons.
- Full Department (DRLNGO) responsible for the implementation of the Law.
- NGOs recognised as reporting subjects obligations under AML/CFT Law and FIU supervision.
- Concept Note by DRLNGO to strengthen regime.







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Weaknesses of NGOs Regime

- Restricted responsibilities of DRLNGO Ineffective prudential supervision.
- Inadequate sanctioning regime lack of prudential sanctions for certain breaches under the Law.
- No assessment of laws and regulations and on risks and vulnerabilities has been carried.
- There is little outreach and no legal obligation for authorities to outreach to the NGOs sector.
- No empowering legal provisions to collect information for investigative purposes.



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Some general overall Recommendations for NGOs Regime:

- Create legal provisions on the designation and competences of the 'Competent Body' in the Law on NGOs.
- Undertake an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities to which NGOs may be exposed or be exploited for financing of terrorism and implement an outreach programme.
- Undertake a strategic assessment to determine which NGOs occupy a significant portion of the financial resources under control of the sector or have a substantial share of the sector's international activities.





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