

ECCD/2018/01

# **PROGRAMME FOR ROUND TABLE ON**

**Council of Europe Cooperation Activities against Economic Crime:  
tools, impact and lessons learnt  
15-16 February 2018**

*Organised by:*  
Economic Crime and Cooperation Division

**Council of Europe  
Agora Building - Strasbourg**

## Background

Since the early 1990s the international community has been increasingly focusing on developing anti-corruption (AC), anti-money laundering (AML), counter-terrorist financing (CTF), and criminal asset recovery (CRA) standards and practices. For the Council of Europe, this period was marked by the elaboration of several key conventions and Committee of Ministers' recommendations, and later on followed by the development of its monitoring structures GRECO and MONEYVAL, and expansion of technical co-operation programmes: thus, creating a positive and tangible compilation (policy drivers) of standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation activities at a national level.

The impact of these mechanisms on laws, regulations and formal institutional frameworks is undeniable and well-documented in GRECO and MONEYVAL evaluations. However, practical implementation and impact on economic crimes lags behind, especially in addressing new typologies and *modus operandi* of criminal groups. Yet, corruption, money-laundering, financing of terrorism and laundering of the proceeds of crimes continue to be very resilient. Political will to combat these ills appears often to be only declaratory.

Perhaps partly due to increased public awareness, in many CoE member States, voters perceive corruption of governing elites as endemic. In some countries there is reason to speak of state capture by oligarchies operating on the borderline between the official and unofficial economy, if not engaged directly in criminal activities.

One possible response to these challenges could be to devise stronger *tools for ensuring compliance with standards and tangible results* in combating and preventing economic crime.

However, tackling state capture raises specific problems for conventional compliance-based approaches. State capture often means the capture of the very "rules of the game" by corrupt interests, which may result in the legalisation of behaviour that would normally be illegal.

Criminal economic activities have mutated into new forms. This poses serious questions, requiring the integrating of cross cutting issues and development of new approaches in closing the loopholes which undermine efforts to prevent and combat economic crime. Linked to this, the tendency of current approaches to fighting corruption and governance problems through "enforcement of rules" while ensuring respect for human rights, may need broadening by placing more emphasis on integrity-based approaches. In addition, there may be a need to better combine or blend approaches based on international standards on the one hand, with efforts to find solutions that are sufficiently grounded in local research and evidence.

In view of the above, and from technical cooperation context, there is a need to review the impact of Council of Europe cooperation actions and their programming when supporting reforms against economic crime and its components (corruption, fraud, organized crime, money laundering, financial crime, terrorism financing, criminally acquired assets): furthermore, to discuss cross cutting issues such as, human rights, data protection and international cooperation.

The event of 15-16 February 2018 brings together more than 40 Council of Europe experts from academia, policy community and practitioners along Secretariat members from specialised services, committees and monitoring structures to brainstorm and identify issues and challenges in implementing Council of Europe standards through cooperation activities.

The **focus** will be to identify issues and challenges from practical and implementation point of view, while seeking the improvement of delivery of technical assistance and ensuring long-term impact.

The **expected result** would be an indicative advisory report on the lessons learnt and possible ways and directions that would contribute to strengthening the Council of Europe action in general and cooperation against economic crime.

For this purpose, discussions and brainstorming will take place during two plenary sessions; while smaller group workshops will be dedicated to the three major group-themes: **1) Corruption and Fraud (enforcement and prevention); 2) Criminal Assets and International Cooperation; and 3) Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.**

## 15 February 2018 – Agora Building

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**08:30 – 09:00 Registration**

**Salle G 01:**

**09:00 – 09:30 Opening session**

- Welcome from Jan KLEIJSEN Director of Directorate of Information Society and Action against Crime
- Activity rationale: cooperation challenges and trends; Ardita ABDIU, Head of Economic Crime and Cooperation Division – DG I

**09:30 – 10:45 Economic crime drivers, experience from reforms and implementation challenges: (standard setting and monitoring experiences)**

Rapporteur: *Quentin Reed, Council of Europe Expert*

- **CDPC and PC-OC:** Anita VAN DE KAR BACHELET, Secretariat
- **CDCJ:** Philippe KRANTZ, Secretariat
- **Venice Commission:** Michael JANSSEN, Secretariat
- **CDMSI:** Urška UMEK, Secretariat
- **GRECO:** Tania VAN DIJK, Secretariat
- **Moneyval and COP 198:** Michael STELLINI, Secretariat
- **CoEs Evaluation and Audit:** Rica TERBECK, Evaluator

**10:45 – 11:10 Coffee Break (Group Photo)**

**11:10 – 12:30 Economic crime drivers, experience from reforms and implementation challenges**

Rapporteur: *Quentin Reed, Council of Europe Expert*

- **Corruption and Fraud:** Drago KOS, Council of Europe Expert
- **Criminal Assets:** Alan BACARESE, Council of Europe Expert
- **International Cooperation:** Arvinder SAMBEI, Council of Europe Expert
- **Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing:** Klaudijo STROLIGO, Council of Europe Expert

**12:30 – 13:45 Lunch Break**

**13:45 – 17:45 Supporting reforms, cooperation tools and searching for improvement**

**Three Simultaneous Workshops**

Workshop on Corruption and Fraud (enforcement and prevention) <b>(Salle G.01)</b>	Workshop on Criminal Assets and International Cooperation <b>(Salle G.02)</b>	Workshop on Money Laundering and Terrorism financing <b>(Salle G.04)</b>
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**15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break**

## 16 February 2018 – Agora Building

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**09:00 – 10.00 Supporting reforms, cooperation tools and searching for improvement**  
(Continued...)

Workshop on Corruption and Fraud (enforcement and prevention) <b>(Salle G.05)</b>	Workshop on Criminal Assets and International Cooperation <b>(Salle G.02)</b>	Workshop on Money Laundering and Terrorism financing <b>(Salle G.04)</b>
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**10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break**

**10:15 – 13.00 Supporting reforms, cooperation tools and searching for improvement**  
(Continued...)

Workshop on Corruption and Fraud (enforcement and prevention) <b>(Salle G.05)</b>	Workshop on Criminal Assets and International Cooperation <b>(Salle G.02)</b>	Workshop on Money Laundering and Terrorism financing <b>(Salle G.04)</b>
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**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:45 Supporting reforms, cooperation tools and searching for improvement**  
(Continued...)

Workshop on Corruption and Fraud (enforcement and prevention) <b>(Salle G.05)</b>	Workshop on Criminal Assets and International Cooperation <b>(Salle G.02)</b>	Workshop on Money Laundering and Terrorism financing <b>(Salle G.04)</b>
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**15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00-17:00 Overall Report on day 1 and 2 discussion: Supporting reforms, cooperation tools and searching for improvement**  
**Plenary – Salle G 02:**

**Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing**

- *Rapporteur:* Giuseppe LOMBARDO, Council of Europe Expert

**Corruption and Fraud (enforcement and prevention)**

- *Rapporteur:* Quentin REED, Council of Europe Expert

**Criminal Assets and International Cooperation**

- *Rapporteur:* Pedro GOMEZ PEREIRA, Council of Europe Expert

**17:00-17:30 Way forward / Conclusions**

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**Common Standards and Policies: CoE's Inter-governmental Committees/ Monitoring/Cooperation**

[European Committee on Crime Problems \(CDPC\)](#)

[Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters \(PC-OC\)](#)

[European Committee on Legal Co-operation \(CDCJ\)](#)

[Steering Committee on Media and Information Society \(CDMSI\)](#)

[European Commission for Democracy through Law – \(Venice Commission\)](#)

[Group of States against Corruption \(GRECO\)](#)

[Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism \(MONEYVAL\)](#)

[Conference of the Parties \(COP\) to the CETS 198](#)