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Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo* (PECK)

PRESS RELEASE

The European Union Office in Kosovo (EUO) and the Council of Europe (CoE) organised on Tuesday, 28 April 2015, a Closing Conference for the Joint Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo (PECK). The Project, co-funded by the EUO and CoE and implemented by the CoE, aims to strengthen the capacities of Kosovo institutions to prevent and fight corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Key findings and recommendations of the Final Assessment Reports on Kosovo's compliance with international standards in the areas of Anti-Corruption (AC) and Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) were presented at the conference. The Conference also reflected on project outcomes and lessons learned from the unique assessment exercise.

Separate assessments in the AC and AML/CFT fields were carried out in parallel and over two successive cycles since 2012. These were based on the well-established European monitoring methodologies of GRECO and MONEYVAL, utilised throughout Europe. The process was specifically tailored to the Kosovo context in order to focus on priority and high-risk issues.

In terms of process, the first assessment cycle (2012/2013) examined the effectiveness of the institutional and regulatory frameworks and their compliance with applicable international standards and identified shortcomings and risks. The second cycle (2013/2014) focused on ensuring sustained implementation by the authorities through follow-up action and on assessing a broader range of international standards, particularly for in the AML/CFT field. A mid-term Follow-up report was prepared to determine progress made in implementing recommendations made during the first cycle.

The Final Assessment Reports represent the most comprehensive evaluation of law, policy and practice in the AC and AML/CFT areas that has ever been carried out in Kosovo. They seek to provide concrete guidance to the authorities in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacities and improve the legislative and regulatory framework in the areas of combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Ensuring local ownership has been a guiding principle of this process and as such the assessments have been carried out in close coordination with relevant domestic agencies particularly the Kosovo Anti-corruption Agency and Financial Intelligence Unit, as well as with a wide range of beneficiary institutions across Government, Parliament, political parties, executive agencies, law enforcement authorities, judiciary, and the financial sector.

Pristina, 28 April 2015

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.