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ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN ALBANIA (AEC-ALBANIA)

WORKSHOP ON "POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCING"

VENUE: TIRANA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, ("ROOM TEUTA"), TIRANA, ALBANIA; 24 NOVEMBER 2016

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The European Union and Council of Europe's Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (hereafter referred to as "Horizontal Facility") builds on the two organisations policy priorities in the context of the Western Balkans and Turkey and on the CoE expertise in standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation methodologies. It aims to improve implementation of key recommendations of relevant Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies in the areas indicated in the Statement of Intent signed on 1 April 2014 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy.

In the field of fight against economic crime, three country specific interventions have been designed within the Horizontal Facility Programme and more specifically: Albania, Montenegro and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Those actions will aim to improve implementation of key recommendations of the CoE's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), and to further strengthen institutional capacities regarding each country's national reform priorities and other policy level required reforms that emanate from their enlargement agreement process.

Programme's Specific Objectives (SO) in Albania (AEC-Albania):

- SO 1: Review Political Party Funding legislation and institutional framework
- SO 2: Improve the asset declarations system
- SO 3: Review AML/CFT legislative and strategic framework
- SO 4: Enhance capacities of law enforcement authorities, prosecution and judiciary to fight ML/TF
- SO 5: Improve and streamline inter-agency cooperation

The Action against Economic Crime in Albania is implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division-DG I with an allocated budget of € 1,000,000 and an implementation period of 36 months.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop on "Political party and election campaign financing" is the second, follow-up activity to the first workshop on 28 October 2016 organised by AEC-Albania under SO 1. The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Present the opinion and recommendations for reform in line with International Standards on the regulatory processes of the political party and election campaign financing in Albania;
- Discuss initiatives for reform of the political party and election campaign financing from different groups; and
- Agree on the follow up actions and the role of key stakeholders.

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is a technical activity and will be attended by representatives of the following: Ad-hoc Committee on Election Reforms; Central Election Commission; Political Parties; Civil Society; International Organisations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2016

Presentation of the opinion and recommendations	
9:30 - 10:00	Introduction of the workshop - <i>Mr Olsi Dekovi, Deputy Head of the Council of Office in Tirana</i> Opinion and recommendations on political party and election campaign finance in Albania (20 min) - <i>Mr Quentin Reed, Council of Europe expert</i>
Discussion on - Regulation on political party financing	
10:00 - 10:30	- <i>MP Mr Oerd Bylykbashi, Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform</i> - <i>MP Mr Taulant Balla, Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform</i> - <i>Mr Denar Biba - CEC Chair</i>
10:40 - 10:50	<i>Position of International organisations and Civil Sector</i> - <i>OSCE/ODIHR</i> <i>Open discussion</i>
11:10 - 11:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Discussion on Reporting and Audit	
11:20 - 11:50	- <i>MP Mr Oerd Bylykbashi, Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform</i> - <i>MP Mr Taulant Balla, Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform</i> - <i>Mr Denar Biba - CEC Chair</i> <i>Position of International organisations and Civil Sector</i> - <i>OSCE/ODIHR</i>
12:00	<i>Open discussion</i>
The way forward/next steps	
12:20 - 12:40	- <i>Mr Quentin Reed, Council of Europe expert</i> - <i>MP Mr Oerd Bylykbashi, Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform</i> - <i>MP Mr Taulant Balla, Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform</i> - <i>Mr Denar Biba - CEC Chair</i>
12.40	Lunch