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ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN ALBANIA (AEC-ALBANIA)

WORKSHOP ON "POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCING"

VENUE: TIRANA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, TIRANA, ALBANIA; 28 OCTOBER 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 first activity organised by AEC-Albania under SO 1. The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Review progress made up to date 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;
- Present international good practices & recommendations in party and electoral campaign financing; 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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AGENDA

FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2016

Current State of Affairs

10:00 - 11:45	<p>Introduction of the workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mustafa Ferati, Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Council of Europe;</i> <p>Political party and election campaign finance in Albania: current situation and problems (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Quentin Reed, Council of Europe expert</i> <p>Thematic Review of GRECO III evaluation round – Political Funding (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Yves Marie Doublet, Council of Europe expert</i> <p>Presentation of the work of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform - Co-Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Election Reform (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>MP Mr Oerd Bylykbashi,</i> - <i>MP Mr Taulant Balla</i> <p>Presentation by the CEC of the proposals for amendment to the political party financing law and electoral code (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms Lefterie Luzi - CEC Chair</i> <p>Shortcomings in the political party and election campaign financing in Albania: the perspective of other international organisations (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms Ana Kadovic, NDI</i> <p>Political party and election campaign finance in Albania: problems and solutions from the NGO perspective (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr Premto Gogo, Coalition of Domestic Observers</i> - <i>Mr Ervin Karamuca, Albanian Institute for Political Studies</i> <p>Exchange of views with participants (30 min);</p>
11:45 - 12:00	Coffee break
The way forward	
12:00 - 13:00	<p>Recommendations/Options for reform in light of international good practice and positions of Albanian stakeholders (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr Quentin Reed, Council of Europe expert</i> - <i>Yves Marie Doublet, Council of Europe expert</i> <p>Exchange of views with participants;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next steps
13.00	Reception