

CLOSING CONFERENCE “ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER-TERRORIST FINANCING SYSTEM IN MONTENEGRO: OBSTACLES TO THE EFFECTIVE SYSTEM AND THE WAY FORWARD”

23 November 2021 – Hotel CUE, Podgorica

Programme background

The joint European Union/Council of Europe programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019 – 2022” (also referred to as: Horizontal Facility II or HF II) is a co-operation initiative of the European Union and Council of Europe for South East Europe. The first phase of the Horizontal Facility ran from May 2016 to May 2019 and was succeeded by Horizontal Facility II. The second phase of the Horizontal Facility will continue to build on 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 Neighborhood Policy, in which both Organizations agreed to further strengthen their co-operation in key areas of joint interest.

In the field of fight against economic crime, three Beneficiary -specific interventions have been designed within the Horizontal Facility Programme and more specifically: Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia. Those actions will aim to improve implementation of key recommendations of the Council of Europe’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 Beneficiary’s national reform priorities and other policy-level action that emanate from their enlargement agreement process.

Programme’s Specific Objectives (SO) in Montenegro (HFII-AEC-MNE):

- (1) Improved legal and operational framework on preventing and combating corruption
- (2) Enhanced AML/CFT prevention mechanisms

The Action will last until the end of 2022 and is implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division- DG with an estimated budget of €700,000 Euros and will provide participating jurisdictions with expert advice on regulatory and operational reforms, skills-development training, and platform for discussion on best practices regarding exchange of information.

Objectives

The objective of the conference is to present key effectiveness issues and improvements needed with regard to: the AML/CFT supervision, investigation and prosecution of money laundering cases, confiscation, prevention of terrorist financing and application of targeted financial sanctions; to identify key problems in this areas and to map priority actions aimed at overcoming of these problems. An overview will be provided of the extent to which the Montenegrin AML/CFT legal framework is aligned with standards in areas of national coordination, regulation and supervision of financial and non-financial institutions, competences of law enforcement, sanctions and international cooperation. The conference is expected to propose a broad roadmap for effectively applying mitigating measures and strengthening the AML/CFT system in view of the Action’s extensive previous recommendations and forthcoming activities.

Participants

Participants to this event will be representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Interior Affairs of Montenegro, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro, FIU, Directorate of Police, Supreme State Prosecution, High Court, Capital Market Authority, Central Bank of Montenegro, Agency for Supervision of Insurance, Revenue and Customs Administration, Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media, Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights , Administration for Inspection Affairs , Notary and Bar Association as well as the European Union and the Secretariat of Council of Europe.

For more information please contact:	
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- 08:50 – 09:00** Registration of participants
- 09:00 – 09:30** Introductory remarks:
- **Sergej Sekulovic**, Minister of Interior Affairs of Montenegro
 - **Janko Odovic**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare
 - **Yngve Engstrom**, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation
 - **Mustafa Ferati**, Head of Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Council of Europe
 - **Evgenia Giakomoupoulou**, Head of Operations, Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica
- 09:30 – 10:00** Key obstacles to the effective AML/CFT system and priority actions
- **Giuseppe Lombardo**, Council of Europe expert
- 10:00 -10:30** Discussion
- 10:30 – 10:45** *Coffee break*
- 10:45 – 11:15** Alignment of Montenegrin AML/CFT legal framework with international standards in key areas
- **Giuseppe Lombardo**, Council of Europe expert
- 11:15 – 11:30** Discussion
- 11:30 – 12:00** Supervision, monitoring and regulation of financial institutions, DNFBPs and VASPs
- **Giuseppe Lombardo**, Council of Europe expert
- 12:00 – 12: 30** Discussion
- 12:30 -13:30** *Lunch*
- 13:30 – 14:00** Investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of the money laundering offences and activities
- **Giuseppe Lombardo**, Council of Europe expert
- 14:00 - 14:30** Confiscation of proceeds and instrumentalities of crime
- **Giuseppe Lombardo**, Council of Europe expert
- 14:30 - 15:00** Discussion
- 15:00 – 15:30** *Coffee break*
- 15:30 – 16:00** Prevention of terrorist financing and implementation of targeted financial sanctions
- **Giuseppe Lombardo**, Council of Europe expert
- 16:00 - 16: 30** Discussion
- 16:30 – 17:00** Concluding remarks