

International Conference Transparency of Beneficial Ownership



30 - 31 October 2018

**Venue: Hotel Rogner
Tirana, Albania**

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



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Background information:

As part of Council of Europe's efforts aimed at strengthening capacities of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), this international conference represents a significant inter-regional initiative related to four programmes in two regions: South East Europe (SEE) and Eastern Partnership (EaP). The Conference will be addressing issues of concerning the misuse of legal entities and persons and arrangements through beneficial ownership, while providing a road map compliance with for international standard' and the required transparency of information on beneficial ownership.

This Conference takes place in the framework of the Council of Europe's Programme on Countering Threats to the Rule of Law and three joint European Union/Council of Europe programmes¹, which are focussed on: a) support to strengthening of legislative and regulatory frameworks; b) build institutional capacities; and c) facilitate enhanced inter-agency and international cooperation.

Through this initiative the Council of Europe aims at strengthening capacities to fight economic crime by addressing specific shortcomings related to the transparency of beneficial ownership (as identified by GRECO and MONEYVAL), and by bringing local practices in line with relevant European standards.

While emphasising the need to strengthen the implementation of the international standards regarding the Transparency of Beneficial Ownership this International Conference aims at developing a common understanding of standards and comparative practices related to transparency of beneficial ownership among practitioners and policy makers in the two regions and to help map-out future steps such as due diligence and registry policy solutions.

Expected results:

1. Increase awareness of among senior policy makers on international and European standards regarding transparency of beneficial ownership;
2. Share practices, challenges and practical information when introducing compliance and registries as well as international cooperation on these matters; and
3. Map out next steps for developing and implementing transparency of beneficial ownership solutions in South-East Europe and Eastern Partnership regions.

Participating countries/Jurisdictions:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| - Albania | - Croatia | - Serbia |
| - Armenia | - Georgia | - "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" |
| - Azerbaijan | - Kosovo* | |
| - Belarus | - Montenegro | - Turkey |
| - Bosnia and Herzegovina | - Republic of Moldova | - Ukraine |

¹ EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey; EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance (PGG); and EU/CoE Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo*(PECK II).

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

International Conference: “Transparency of Beneficial Ownership”
30 – 31 October 2018,
Rogner Hotel - Tirana, Albania

Programme

Tuesday 30 October 2018	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe</i> ▪ <i>Mr Luigi Soreca, European Union Ambassador to Albania</i> ▪ <i>Ms Etilda Gjonaj, Minister of Justice of Albania</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Media break
10:15 – 10:45	<p>International standards on transparency of beneficial ownership of legal entities and legal arrangements <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert (Ireland)</i> ▪ <i>Ms Kallina Simeonoff, Advisor, European Commission (Brussels)</i>
10:45 – 11:15	<p>Criminal misuses of legal entities and arrangements <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert (Ireland)</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 13:45	<p>Beneficial ownership compliance and supervision obligations of the financial and non-financial sector <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert (Ireland)</i> ▪ <i>Mr Alexandre Taymans, Council of Europe Expert (Belgium)</i> ▪ <i>Mr Tom Fothergill, Council of Europe Expert (Jersey)</i> ▪ <i>Mr Thomas Altenbach, Council of Europe Expert (Germany)</i>
13:45: 14:45	Lunch
Workshop 1: South-East Europe	
14:45 – 16:45	<p>Beneficial ownership compliance and supervision obligations of the financial and non-financial sector – discussion of regional practices <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Panel experts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert (Ireland)</i>

Wednesday 31 October 2018 – Plenary

09:00 – 10:45	<p>Lessons learned in establishing and running beneficial ownership registries <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Sébastien Guillaume, Council of Europe Expert (Belgium)</i> ▪ <i>Ms Wanda Adam, Council of Europe Expert (Jersey)</i> ▪ <i>Ms Stacey-Jo Smith, Council of Europe Expert (UK)</i> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert (Ireland)</i>
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10:45 – 11:00

Coffee break

Workshop 1: South-East Europe

11:00 – 12:30	<p>Beneficial ownership registries – discussion of regional practices <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <p>Panel experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ms Wanda Adam, Council of Europe Expert (Jersey)</i> ▪ <i>Mr Alexandre Taymans, Council of Europe Expert (Belgium)</i> <p>Country/Jurisdiction practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Albania</i> ▪ <i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> ▪ <i>Croatia</i> ▪ <i>Kosovo</i> ▪ <i>Montenegro</i> ▪ <i>Serbia</i> ▪ <i>“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, and</i> ▪ <i>Turkey</i> <p>Rapporteurs: Ms Wanda Adam + CoE Secretariat</p>
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Workshop 2: Eastern-Partnership countries

11:00 – 12:30	<p>Beneficial ownership registries – discussion of regional practices <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i></p> <p>Panel experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert (Ireland)</i> ▪ <i>Ms Stacey-Jo Smith, Council of Europe Expert (UK)</i> <p>Country/Jurisdiction practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Armenia</i> ▪ <i>Azerbaijan</i> ▪ <i>Belarus</i> ▪ <i>Georgia</i> ▪ <i>Republic of Moldova</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ukraine</i> Rapporteurs: <i>Terence Donovan + CoE Secretariat</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
Plenary	
13:30 – 14:15	Summary of Group discussions from day two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Presentation by rapporteurs and discussion with participants</i>
14:15 – 15:15	Roadmap for enhancing policy solutions for enhancing beneficial ownership compliance and oversight <i>Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i> <p>Panel experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mr Terence Donovan, Council of Europe Expert,(Ireland)</i> ▪ <i>Mr Alexandre Taymans, Council of Europe Expert (Belgium)</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:00	Roadmap for introducing beneficial ownership registries <i>Moderator: Moderator: CoE Secretariat</i> <p>Panel experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ms Wanda Adam, Council of Europe Expert(Jersey)</i> ▪ <i>Ms Stacey-Jo Smith, Council of Europe Expert (UK)</i>
17:00	Closing remarks: <i>Mr Ivan Koedjikov, Head, Action Against Crime Department–DG I, Council of Europe</i>