



ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING

EESC input

AML /CFT

Contents;

- AML legislation and targets
- Notes on EESC and opinions
- Suggestions by EESC on AML/CFT

AML

Legislation and targets

The commission has targeted the following areas:

- **prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing**
- **establishing the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism**
- **transfers of funds and certain crypto-assets**
- **the mechanisms to be put in place by the Member States for the prevention of the use of the financial system**
- Estimates of the volume of money laundering put it at between 1% of EU27 GDP (Europol and the European Commission) and 1.3% (Court of Auditors), i.e. between EUR 140 and 208 billion per year

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HOW the EESC works

- Commission or EU parliament or President of the EU Council (presently France) ask for a view on certain topics to the EESC
- EESC is made up of three groups – employers, unions and civil society NGO's
- For each topic a study group is set up made up of between 6 and 12 persons to prepare the opinion, this is then passed to the Section with circa 100 persons from the 3 groups, and then voted at plenary with all members of the EESC present totalling 330 members.
- Each member country (27) is represented in the EESC. Numbers depend on population - minimum 5 persons

AML - EESC points 1

Points raised by EESC in the opinion of anti money laundering

- The EESC strongly supports the Anti Money Laundering legislative package
- Welcomes the setting up of AMLA the anti money laundering authority with direct supervisory powers
- Hopes that this is set up before 2026 although certain parts will be working during 2024 and should be given sufficient resources to become the core of an integrated European oversight and intelligence system
- Welcomes coordination of national supervisors and FIUs - and the provisions of both to harmonise national legislation and automate the recording and transmission of information.
- Predict offences requires a cultural change, and the effective involvement of organised civil society

AML - EESC points 2

- It also proposes the creation of a civil society advisory body, within AMLA, or under the European Commission and with AMLA participation.
- Regulation on crypto-assets, of the AML legislative package, be implemented as a matter of urgency
- Calls on the Commission to consider how to apply the legislative package to money laundering channels outside the financial system – examples - art and high-value assets; free ports, customs warehouses and special economic zones; certain commercial or trade transactions, real estate investments, gambling.
- Europol be given greater powers and sufficient resources to combat money laundering, the financing of terrorism and transnational organised crime and to coordinate national police forces in these areas

AML - EESC points 3

- The EESC calls on the Commission to push for the urgent transposition in all Member States of Directive 2018/1673, which establishes a common definition of the offence of money laundering;
- Very concerned about the existence in the EU of a huge number of 'shell companies', which play a key role in money laundering and tax avoidance. This opinion was favourably voted on last week.
- The EESC considers it necessary to draw up a new, realistic and truthful list of high-risk third countries, including all those that facilitate money laundering.
- The EESC calls on the EU and national governments to protect the lives and integrity of journalists, employees and civil servants who denounce economic and political corruption, and considers the delay in transposing Directive (EU) 2019/1937 to be unacceptable