Anti-Money Laundering Authority

EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

EPPO

PRESS RELEASE

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AMLA and the EPPO sign working arrangement to strengthen the fight against money laundering

AMLA and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) have today signed a Working Arrangement to strengthen the fight against money laundering affecting the EU budget. It establishes a close and structured cooperation between the two organisations, bringing together financial intelligence and criminal investigations at EU level.

To better counter money laundering and the illegal activities of organised crime groups that cause serious harm to the EU's financial interests, the arrangement sets out how AMLA and the EPPO will cooperate at both the strategic and operational level. This includes joint analyses conducted by the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and AMLA, the exchange of information and the implementation of a hit/no-hit system.

The EPPO, already an observer on AMLA's General Board in its FIU composition, will continue to take part in AMLA working groups developing technical standards, risk indicators and guidelines. Building on their respective expertise, the two organisations will further engage in capacity-building through training activities.

By establishing a framework for closer cooperation, AMLA and the EPPO will reinforce the EU's ability to tackle money laundering linked to crimes affecting the Union's financial interests, and thus contribute to a robust architecture for protecting the EU budget.

Bruna Szego, Chair of AMLA, said:

"Cooperation is central to AMLA's mission of protecting the European Union and its financial system from money laundering and terrorist financing. This Working Arrangement establishes a framework for AMLA and the EPPO to exchange information and coordinate their activities in tackling money laundering linked to crimes affecting the Union's financial interests. By deepening our cooperation, we are strengthening the EU's capacity to detect and combat financial crime that harms the EU budget and, ultimately, European taxpayers."

Andrés Ritter, European Chief Prosecutor, said:

"Organised crime groups do not stop at national borders when committing massive fraud against the EU budget and laundering the proceeds of their criminal activities, and neither can our response. Each with its own expertise and tools, the EPPO and AMLA have a common strategic objective: to make the fight against money laundering more effective, particularly when it comes

The Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA)
Messeturm Frankfurt, Friedrich-Ebert-Anlage 49, 60308 Frankfurt am Main, GERMANY
email: media@amla.europa.eu | amla.europa.eu

to protecting the EU's financial interests. This Working Arrangement will turn our strategic partnership into effective cooperation."

About AMLA and the EPPO

AMLA is the EU authority responsible for strengthening the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing through common rules, consistent supervision and enhanced cooperation among national Financial Intelligence Units.

The EPPO is the independent public prosecution office of the European Union. It is responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment crimes against the financial interests of the EU.

For media queries, please contact media@amla.europa.eu or press@eppo.europa.eu

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