HEARING OF THE ECON AND LIBE COMMITTEES AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Brussels, 15 July 2026

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Opening Statement by Bruna Szego

Chair, Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Dear Chair Lalucq and Vice-Chair Kaljurand,

Honourable Members of the ECON and LIBE Committees,

I am pleased to return today to present AMLA's 2025 Consolidated Annual Activity Report and to update you on how AMLA's work has advanced.

I will begin by giving you an overall view of where AMLA is, then move to more details on what AMLA is doing in its three core tasks, and to the key challenges that I see.

So, what has AMLA achieved in 2025 and where are we now? My overall message to you is that we are on track.

We are growing according to our establishment plan: in 2025 we grew to 119. Today we are 157. By the end this year, we will be 233 and, by the end of 2027, 432. We continue building the Authority: putting in place the processes and structures that allow us to organise and deliver our work. We are also gradually equipping AMLA with the technology and risk-assessment capabilities that are needed. In parallel, we are delivering our mandates and making meaningful progress across other streams of work.

Let me add a few words on this last point - in particular on our three core tasks: the Single Rulebook, supervision, and FIU coordination.

On completing the Single Rulebook:

To deliver this task, AMLA has forty mandates. We have prioritised those that are most impactful for the industry and those most important for supervisory convergence and effective FIU cooperation. To date, we have submitted six draft instruments to the European Commission. We will deliver another eleven mandates this year, and an additional fourteen next year.

But we must also balance timeliness with high-quality outputs that correctly reflect the differences across the financial and non-financial sectors and allow for sufficient stakeholder involvement. For these reasons, last year, we requested adjustments to a few deadlines and proposed a phased approach to some mandates.

A few words on supervision:

First, we are preparing for direct supervision. We are building our risk assessment model for selecting and supervising the forty financial institutions that will be directly supervised by AMLA. We are now testing it on real data. We are also identifying which institutions may be eligible for direct supervision. On both fronts, we are working closely with national authorities. We will run the first selection from 1 July 2027, and will be ready to start direct supervision in 2028.

Second, on supervisory convergence: We are building and testing a similar risk assessment model to be used for supervision at the national level. We are also developing a common supervisory methodology and handbook, together with national supervisors, so that they and AMLA can supervise in comparable ways across the EU.

And third, for the non-financial sector: Given its lower level of maturity, we are developing a pragmatic, phased approach. A first baseline risk assessment model is currently out for public consultation.

Turning to the FIU pillar: we have made progress in several areas. And I would like to draw your attention to two in particular—standards and the FIU support and coordination framework.

On standards: Our recent efforts have focused on harmonising how and what information is exchanged between FIUs, and standardising STR templates across the EU. These are key factors to ensure higher-quality financial intelligence.

On the support and coordination framework: We are completing the FIU mapping and our first pilot peer review on the resourcing of FIUs. This will provide both AMLA and FIUs a basis for tailoring mutual assistance and training.

Finally, by the end of this year, we will be ready to start conducting joint analyses.

Let me conclude with what I see as key challenges.

First, as I have stated before, the state of convergence is low. This is particularly acute in the non-financial sector, where achieving meaningful results will take time.

Second, proportionality and simplification are guiding principles of our work, together with effectiveness. We are using all flexibility available in Level 1 to simplify; however, this is not always easy to achieve.

And third, our ability to detect and respond to risks relies on strong technological capabilities. This is increasingly important as geopolitical instability and accelerating technological developments are reshaping the threat landscape, in both scale and complexity. Building these capabilities will take time and sustained effort.

While these challenges cannot be resolved overnight, AMLA will continue working with all stakeholders to achieve tangible progress in convergence, effectiveness and to strengthen our collective capacity to address evolving money laundering and terrorist financing risks.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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