



Doc. 14311
02 May 2017

Enhancing co-operation between Council of Europe member States to meet new challenges in the fight against organised crime and money laundering

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Mart van de VEN and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Recent reports have revealed details of a sophisticated scheme, known as the "Global Laundromat", that transferred at least \$20 billion between 2011 and 2014 from shell companies in Russia to banks in 96 countries around the world. Initially concealed as debt repayments ordered by Moldovan courts in favour of shell companies based in the United Kingdom, Cyprus and New Zealand, much of the money passed through a Latvian bank. It is suspected that some of the money originated in criminal activity in Russia, including fraudulent or corrupt State contracts and tax and customs evasion. Reports say that the scheme also had links to the theft of \$1 billion from Moldovan banks.

Originally exposed by the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, the scheme is now being investigated in several countries. In the Republic of Moldova, criminal charges have been brought against judges and company and bank officials, with one suspect extradited from Ukraine. In Latvia, the bank in question has been shut down for money laundering. The Russian and British authorities are also investigating.

Corruption, organised crime and money laundering are serious threats to the rule of law and obstacles to democratic and economic development. The scale, duration and reach of this scheme, operated from Council of Europe member States, suggests possible weaknesses in national, regional and/or international mechanisms for combating money laundering by organised criminal groups.

The Parliamentary Assembly should inquire into the "Global Laundromat" operation and similar operations initiated from Council of Europe member States, in particular the response of and co-operation between the relevant national authorities, with a view to making possible recommendations for enhancing national mechanisms and international co-operation to combat money laundering by organised crime.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, NR
DAEMS Hendrik, Belgium, ALDE
DALLOZ Marie-Christine, France, EPP/CD
DURANTON Nicole, France, EPP/CD
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
HEER Alfred, Switzerland, ALDE
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MULDER Anne, Netherlands, ALDE
MULLEN Rónán, Ireland, EPP/CD
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria, Netherlands, EPP/CD
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE
RODRÍGUEZ HERNÁNDEZ Melisa, Spain, ALDE
SCHNABEL Paul, Netherlands, ALDE
SCHRIJVER Nico, Netherlands, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group