

Parliament again rejects blacklist of states at risk of money laundering

Plenary sessions [17-05-2017 - 12:52]

MEPs again reject as inadequate by 392 votes to 80, with 207 abstentions, a narrow list of countries at risk of money laundering.

Earlier this year, Parliament vetoed a similar list drawn up by the Commission, of countries thought to be at risk of money laundering, financing terrorism or promoting tax evasion. A resolution voted on Wednesday says the EU should have an independent, autonomous process for judging whether countries pose a threat of financial criminality rather than relying on the judgement of an external body.

The list of third-countries judged by the Commission to have strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regimes are:

Afghanistan,

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Guyana

Iraq

Lao PDR

Syria

Uganda

Vanuatu

Yemen

Iran

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The European Commission proposes amending the list by adding Ethiopia and removing Guyana from the list.

Additional information

Under the EU's Anti-Money Laundering Directive, the Commission is responsible for producing an inventory of countries thought to be at risk of money laundering, tax evasion and terrorism financing. People and legal entities from blacklisted countries face tougher than usual checks when doing business in the EU.

Currently, the Commission relies heavily on the international body, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in drawing up its list.

Press release

Procedure: Binding vote on delegated act to the EU's Anti-money Laundering Directive

Further information

- Adopted text (2017/2634) will soon be available here (17.05.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html>
- Press release on committee vote (03.05.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170503IPR73255/committees-again-reject-blacklist-of-states-at-risk-of-money-laundering>
- EbS+ (17.05.2017) : <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/ebs/schedule.cfm?sitelang=en&page=3&institution=0&date=05/17/2017>
- Audiovisual material for professionals: <http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/default.aspx>

Political groups

- News pages of the EPP group: <http://bit.ly/1WuQLqB>
- Press release by the S&D group: <http://bit.ly/2qQtExA>
- News pages of the ECR group: <http://bit.ly/1Y0YFrj>
- News pages of the ALDE group: <http://bit.ly/2ikk6qK>
- Press release by the GUE/NGL group: <http://bit.ly/2pOt0QU>
- Press release by the Greens/EFA group: <http://bit.ly/2quSzUq>
- News pages of the EFDD group: <http://bit.ly/1TUnDFU>
- News pages of the ENF group: <http://bit.ly/2cxzxcR>

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