

# MEPs reject EU Commission blacklist of states at risk of money laundering

Plenary sessions [19-01-2017 - 13:26]

**MEPs have voted to return to the EU Commission its blacklist of countries deemed to be at risk of money laundering and terrorist financing. The list is too limited, and should be expanded, e.g. to include territories that facilitate tax crimes, they said before voting the resolution on Thursday.**

Judith Sargentini (Greens/EFA, NL) who prepared the resolution and is a co-rapporteur on the underlying legislation, said “the strength of the vote reflects the strength of feeling in Parliament about the inadequacy of this current list. We now hope that the Commission will be more ambitious in its revisions, so as to create a blacklist which is fit-for-purpose.”

Krišjānis Karins (EPP, LV), another co-rapporteur on the underlying legislation, abstained in the vote, saying “A country should be placed on the ‘blacklist’ only when there is clear evidence of a systematic threat of money laundering and terrorist financing. The Commission needs to have a straightforward and transparent algorithm that can withstand public scrutiny.”

The Commission lists eleven countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Syria, which it judges to be deficient in countering money laundering and terrorist financing. People and legal entities from blacklisted countries face tougher than usual checks when doing business in the EU.

Following the vote, an existing inventory of third countries thought to fall short in the area of anti-money laundering and terrorism finance will remain in force while the Commission considers any revisions.

The resolution was passed by 393 votes to 67 votes, with 210 abstentions.

## Further information

- Adopted text will be available here (Click on 19.01.2017)  
: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html>
- Profile of rapporteur, Judith Sargentini (Greens/EFA, NL)  
: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96815/JUDITH\\_SARGENTINI\\_home.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96815/JUDITH_SARGENTINI_home.html)
- Profile of rapporteur, Krišjānis Karins (EPP, LV)  
: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96901/KRISJANIS\\_KARINS\\_home.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96901/KRISJANIS_KARINS_home.html)
- Procedure file :  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2016/3007\(DEA\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2016/3007(DEA)&l=en)
- Video: extracts from the vote on Black list of countries at risk of money-laundering:  
: <http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Assetdetail.aspx?ref=I131839>
- Access to anti-money laundering information by tax authorities (At a glance, 15-11-2016)  
: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_ATA\(2016\)593534](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_ATA(2016)593534)

## Political groups

- News pages of the EPP group  
: <http://bit.ly/1WuQLqB>
- News pages of the S&D group  
: <http://bit.ly/1WWG6F4>
- News pages of the ECR group  
: <http://bit.ly/1Y0YFrj>

# Press release

- News pages of the ALDE group  
: <http://bit.ly/2ikk6qK>
- Press release by the GUE/NGL group  
: <http://bit.ly/2iFhofM>
- News pages of the Greens/EFA group  
: <http://bit.ly/2j7lSkL>
- News pages of the EFDD group  
: <http://bit.ly/1TUnDFU>
- News pages of the ENF group  
: <http://bit.ly/2cxzxcR>

## Contacts

### **Hyun-Sung KHANG**

Press Service

Telephone number: +32 2 28 34710 (BXL)

Telephone number: (+33) 3 881 72420 (STR)

Email: [hyun-sung.khang@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:hyun-sung.khang@europarl.europa.eu)

Email: [econ-press@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:econ-press@europarl.europa.eu)

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