

ECB Banking Supervision's role in Anti-Money Laundering/ Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)



Édouard Fernandez-Bollo ECB representative to the Supervisory Board



Although the ECB's supervisory role is solely prudential...

	Prudential framework Prudential supervisor	AML/CFT supervisor(s)	AML/CFT framework Financial Intelli- gence Unit (FIU)	Law enforcement authorities (LEAs)		
Main goal	Ensure the safety and soundness of credit institutions to protect depositors' money and maintain financial stability	Verify that banks (obliged entities) have adequate internal AML/CFT procedures in place; ensure compliance through administrative sanctions and corrective measures, etc.	Collect and analyse suspicious transaction reports (STRs) and inform law enforcement authorities	Investigate and prosecute ML/TF, other crimes and tax offences. Courts can impose criminal sanctions on natural persons and in some cases also on legal entities.		
Main applicable	 CRR CRD¹ SSM Regulation 	• AMLD ^{1, 2}	• AMLD ^{1, 2}	 EU directives on combatting ML/TF through the use of criminal law^{1,3} National criminal law 		
legislation		The ECB's prudential supervisors will <u>not</u> perform tasks outside the prudential framework				

1. As transposed into national law; 2. Directive (EU) 2015/849 and successive modifications, 3. Directive (EU) 2018/1673 on combating money laundering by criminal law; Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism by criminal law

...recent changes in the EU framework envisage an enhanced role for prudential supervisors in AML/CFT

AMLD5	•	Clarified the legal basis for the exchange of information between prudential and A			
AMEDS		supervisors, required support for the conclusion of an AML Agreement	See next slide		
CRD V	•	Introduced new AML/CFT-related requirements for prudential supervisors regarding authorisation and withdrawal procedures and Supervisory Review and Evaluation P (SREP); obligation to cooperate with AML/CFT supervisors and FIUs and notify Eu Banking Authority (EBA) under certain conditions	rocess		
Amendment to ESAs' regulations	•	Reinforced the EBA's mandate to prevent the use of the financial system for money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF), introduced new reporting requirements	'		
ESA guidelines on AML/CFT colleges	•	Established AML/CFT colleges to which prudential supervisors should be invited as observers	i		

The AML Agreement¹

- In accordance with the AMLD5, the ECB signed an agreement in January 2019 establishing the practical arrangements for the exchange of information with around 50 national AML/CFT competent authorities in the European Economic Area
- The Agreement allows for a structured exchange of information between the ECB and the AML/CFT competent authorities:
 - o at the participants' request;
 - o on the participants' own initiative:
 - ✓ which "should" take place for specific cases, e.g. imposed sanctions or measures;
 - ✓ but "may" also take place for other reasons, e.g. to provide information on a business model.
- In all cases, the information shared must be "relevant and necessary" for the receiving entity to fulfill its respective role as prudential or AML/CFT supervisor

^{1.} Multilateral agreement on the practical modalities for exchange of information pursuant to Article 57a(2) of Directive EU 2015/849. Available here.

The AML Agreement - Implementation

- The ECB actively transmits information to AML/CFT competent authorities under the AML Agreement
 - The information transmitted to AML/CFT competent authorities mainly comprises excerpts from SREP letters, on-site inspection reports and findings from off-site analyses
- AML/CFT competent authorities also share information with the ECB regularly and on an ad hoc basis
 - Primarily AML/CFT risk assessments, supervisory measures and excerpts from on-site inspection reports

In total, more than 500 exchanges have taken place¹

1. As at 14 September 2020.

To comply with the enhanced framework, the ECB has set up a horizontal AML coordination function... Areas of responsibility Key responsibilities

Central point of contact for AML/CFT issues

A

B

Act as a central point of contact for AML/CFT issues related to significant institutions and facilitate information exchange with AML authorities

AML/CFT NCA network coordination • Set up, in cooperation with the national competent authorities (NCAs), an AML network of prudential supervisors to achieve a consistent system-wide approach to better integrate ML/TF risk into prudential supervision

C Centre of expertise on the ML/TF institutional and policy framework

Act as an in-house centre of expertise on prudential issues related to AML/CFT issues; represent the ECB in external groups focusing on AML/CFT from a prudential supervision perspective

... and updated its supervisory methodologies

Off-site methodology

 An approach on how to reflect ML/TF risk in the SREP was developed

On-site methodology

 The on-site methodology was enhanced to raise inspectors' awareness of ML/TF-related risks (always within the prudential mandate)

Authorisation (AUT) procedures

• Existing policies enhanced to take a more proactive approach to ML/TF related issues (including in the areas of qualifying holding acquisitions, fit and proper assessments and withdrawal of authorisation)