

Suppliment tal-Gazzetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta, Nru. 19,912, 1 ta' Diċembru, 2017
Taqsim A

MALTA

ATT Nru XXVIII tal-2017

ATT maħruġ b'ligi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

ATT biex jemenda l-Att kontra *Money Laundering*, Kap. 373.

ACT No. XXVIII of 2017

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

AN ACT to amend the *Prevention of Money Laundering Act*, Cap. 373.

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

1 ta' Diċembru, 2017

ATT Nru XXVIII tal-2017

ATT biex jemenda l-Att kontra Money Laundering, Kap. 373.

IL-PRESIDENT bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità tal-istess, harġet b'ligi dan li ġej:-

1. It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att hu l-Att tal-2017 biex jemenda l-Att kontra *Money Laundering*, u dan l-Att għandu jinqara u jinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Att kontra *Money Laundering*, hawn iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjaħ "l-Att prinċipali".

Titolu fil-qosor.
Kap. 373

2. Fl-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali, minnufih wara t-tifsira "attività kriminali" għandha tiżdied it-tifsira ġdida li ġejja:

Emenda tal-
artikolu 2 tal-
Att prinċipali.

" "Awtorità Superviżorja Ewropea" tfisser l-Awtorità Superviżorja Ewropea (Awtorità Bankarja Ewropea), stabbilita bir-Regolament (UE) Nru 1093/2010 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill, jew l-Awtorità Superviżorja Ewropea (Awtorità Ewropea tal-Assigurazzjoni u l-Pensjonijiet tax-Xogħol) stabbilita bir-Regolament (UE) Nru 1094/2010 tal-Parlament

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Ewropew u tal-Kunsill jew l-Awtorità Supervizorja Ewropea (Awtorità Ewropea tat-Titoli u s-Swieq) stabbilita bir-Regolament (UE) Nru 1095/2010 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill;".

Emenda tal-artikolu 4 tal-Att prinċipali.

3. Is-subartikolu (9) tal-artikolu 4 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(9) Ordni ta' investigazzjoni għandha tiġi notifikata lill-persuni msemmija fis-subartikolu (1) u ordni ta' sekwestru għandha tiġi notifikata lis-sekwestratarju u lill-persuna suspettata minn uffiċjal tal-Pulizija Eżekuttiva jew minn uffiċjal tal-awtorità li tkun ħarġet dik l-ordni jew minn uffiċjal tal-Qorti jew tal-Uffiċċju tal-Irkupru tal-Assi:

Iżda l-ordnijiet imsemmija jistgħu wkoll jiġu notifikati lis-sekwestratarju u lill-persuni msemmija fis-subartikolu (1) ħlief lis-suspettat, permezz ta' posta elettronika f'liema każ il-persuna li lilha tkun ġiet notifikata l-ordni għandha tiċċertifika li rċevietha permezz ta' riċevuta bil-posta elettronika sa mhux aktar tard minn ġurnata tax-xogħol wara li tkun saret dik in-notifika. Fin-nuqqas, dik l-ordni għandha tiġi notifikata fiżikament minn xi wieħed mill-uffiċjali msemmija f'dan is-subartikolu u dan bla preġudizzju għall-validità tan-notifika magħmula bil-posta elettronika:

Kap. 101.

Iżda wkoll il-proċedura stipulata f'dan is-subartikolu għandha tapplika, b'żieda ma' dak li hemm provdut fis-subartikolu (9) tal-artikolu 24A tal-Ordinanza dwar Mediċini Perikolużi, dwar in-notifika ta' ordnijiet ta' investigazzjoni u ordnijiet ta' sekwestru maħruġa taħt dik l-Ordinanza."

Emenda tal-artikolu 12 tal-Att prinċipali.

4. L-artikolu 12 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) is-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(1) Il-Ministru, li jaġixxi bil-parir tal-Korp, jista' jagħmel regoli jew regolamenti inġenerali bil-għan li jiġi miġġieled *money laundering* u l-finanzjar tat-terroriżmu jew bil-għan li jkunu jistgħu jitwettqu aħjar id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, u b'mod partikolari, iżda mingħajr preġudizzju għall-ġeneralità ta' dak imsemmi hawn qabel, jista' b'dawk ir-regoli jew regolamenti jeħtieġ lil istituzzjonijiet ta' kreditu, istituzzjonijiet finanzjarji u azjendi u professjonijiet oħra li joperaw fis-settur finanzjarju u setturi rilevanti oħra,

jimplimentaw miżuri, proċeduri, sistemi u kontrolli li jipprevjenu *money laundering* u l-finanzjar tat-terroriżmu, inklużi l-identifikazzjoni, il-ġestjoni tar-riskju, iż-żamma ta' dokumentazzjoni, taħriġ u rappurtar.";

(b) is-subartikolu (4) tiegħu, għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(4) Il-Ministru, f'konsultazzjoni mal-Ministru responsabbli għall-ġustizzja, jista' b'regolamenti jemenda, jibdel jew iżid mal-lista ta' reati speċifikati fit-Tieni Skeda li tinsab ma' dan l-Att."; u

(ċ) minnufih wara s-subartikolu (4) tiegħu, għandu jiżdied dan is-subartikolu (5) ġdid li ġej:

"(5) Il-Ministru jista' jippreskrivi b'regolamenti kulma jenhtieg li jiġi preskritt b'dan l-Att."

5. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 12 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiżdied dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

Żjieda tal-artikolu 12A ġdid mal-Att prinċipali.

"Kumitat ta' Kordinament Nazzjonali biex jiġi Miġġieled *Money Laundering* u Finanzjar tat-Terroriżmu.

12A. (1) Il-Ministru jista', b'regolamenti magħmulin taħt dan l-Att, iwaqqaf kumitat li għandu jissejjaħ il-Kumitat ta' Kordinament Nazzjonali biex jiġi Miġġieled *Money Laundering* u Finanzjar tat-Terroriżmu.

(2) Il-kumitat imwaqqaf taħt is-subartikolu (1) għandu jfassal strateġija nazzjonali u kull politika biex jiġġieled *money laundering*, il-finanzjar tat-terroriżmu u l-finanzjar tal-proliferazzjoni ta' armi tal-qerda tal-massa u jikkordina kull azzjoni li jkollha tittiehed biex tiżviluppa, timplimenta u tirrevedi l-istrateġija u kull politika nazzjonali, inkluż il-kordinament ta' evalwazzjonijiet tar-riskju nazzjonali u l-azzjonijiet li jkollhom jittiehdu biex jiġu indirizzati kull theddida, vulnerabbiltà u riskju li jiġu identifikati.

(3) Il-kumitat imwaqqaf taht is-subartikolu (1) għandu jkun magħmul mis-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli għall-finanzi, mis-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli għall-affarijiet interni, mis-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli għall-gustizzja, mill-Gvernatur tal-Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta, mill-Kummissarju tat-Taxxi, miċ-*Chairman* tal-Awtorità għas-Servizzi Finanzjarji ta' Malta, mill-*Chairperson* tal-Awtorità Maltija għal-Logħob, mill-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija, mill-Avukat Ġenerali, miċ-*Chairman* tal-Korp u miċ-*Chairperson* tal-Uffiċċju għall-Irkupru tal-Assi jew id-deputati tagħhom.

(4) Il-kumitat jista', kull meta jqis li jkun hekk meħtieġ jew spedit, jingagga lil xi persuna waħda jew aktar, li huwa jqis li jkollhom il-kompetenza xierqa, biex jassistuh fit-twettiq ta' ħidmiet speċifiċi li jkunu jeħtieġu kompetenza bħal dik.

(5) Iċ-*Chairperson* tal-kumitat għandu jkun is-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli għall-finanzi.

(6) Il-Ministru għandu jippreskrivi permezz ta' regolamenti s-setgħat li għandhom jingħataw lill-kumitat u l-proċeduri li dan għandu jsegwi biex ikun jista' jwettaq il-funzjonijiet tiegħu sew.

(7) Ir-rimunerazzjoni li tiffallas, jekk ikun il-każ, lil xi membru tal-kumitat għandha tiġi stabbilita mill-Ministru."

Sostituzzjoni tal-artikolu 13 tal-Att prinċipali.

6. L-artikolu 13 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"Sanzjonijiet, pieni u miżuri oħra.

13. (1) Il-Ministru jista' jagħmel regoli jew regolamenti li jkunu jipprovdu dwar sanzjonijiet kriminali, pieni amministrattivi u miżuri oħra li jistgħu jiġu imposti għal xi kontravvenzjoni, ksur jew nuqqas ta' tħaris ta' regoli, regolamenti jew direttivi magħmulin taht dan l-Att:

Iżda:

(a) is-sanzjonijiet kriminali hekk imposti m'għandhomx ikunu ta' iżjed minn multa ta' miljun euro (€1,000,000) jew prigunerija għal żmien mhux iżjed minn ħames snin, jew dik il-multa u prigunerija flimkien kif stipulat fir-regoli jew regolamenti involuti; u

(b) il-pieni amministrattivi hekk imposti m'għandhomx ikunu iżjed minn:

(i) ħames miljun euro (€5,000,000);
jew

(ii) darbtejn daqs l-ammont tal-benefiċċju miksub mill-kontravvenzjoni, ksur jew nuqqas ta' tharis, meta dan ikun jista' jiġi stabbilit; jew

(iii) għaxra fil-mija (10%) tal-fatturat annwali totali kif joħroġ fid-dikjarazzjonijiet finanzjarji approvati u disponibbli l-aktar reċenti.

(2) Il-pieni amministrattivi msemija taħt is-subartikolu (1) għandhom jiġu imposti mill-Korp konformement ma' kull politika u proċedura stabbilita mill-Bord ta' Gvernaturi msemija fl-artikolu 18, minn żmien għal żmien.

(3) Il-Korp jista', f'każijiet transkonfini, jikkoopera ma' kull entità nazzjonali jew sovrannazzjonali, awtorità jew aġenzija barranija li l-Korp ikun iqis bħala li jkollhom funzjonijiet ekwivalenti jew li jixbhu lil dawk imsemija fl-artikolu 26(1), biex jikkordinaw il-mod li bih jiġu imposti l-pieni amministrattivi jew miżuri oħra.

(4) Meta xi piena amministrattiva jew miżura oħra, kif hawn provdut f'dan l-artikolu, tiġi imposta fuq xi persuna suġġetta li tkun qiegħda tiġġestixxi kummerċ finanzjarju rilevanti, kif imfisser taħt regolamenti li jkunu fis-seħħ minn żmien għal żmien taħt dan l-Att, il-Korp għandu javża lill-Awtorità Superviżorja Ewropea rilevanti bl-azzjoni li tkun ittiegħdet u, meta dan ikun japplika, l-Awtorità Superviżorja Ewropea għandha wkoll tiġi avzata dwar kull appell pendenti u l-eżitu tiegħu.

(5) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu u l-artikoli 13A u 13B il-frazi "persuna suġġetta" għandha l-istess tifsir kif mogħti lilha bl-artikolu 14 ta' dan l-Att."

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- Sostituzzjoni tal-artikolu 13A tal-Att prinċipali.
- 7.** L-artikolu 13A tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:
- "Appelli minn pjeni amministrattivi.
- 13A. (1) Kull meta persuna sugġetta tħoss ruħha aggravata b'piena amministrattiva imposta fuqha mill-Korp kif ikun hemm fir-regoli u regolamenti magħmulin taħt l-artikolu 13, u dik il-piena amministrattiva tkun ta' iżjed minn ħamest elef euro (€5,000), sew jekk din tkun imposta dwar xi kontravvenzjoni waħda jew aktar, il-persuna sugġetta tista' tappella minn dik il-piena amministrattiva kemm fuq punti ta' liġi u fuq il-mertu.
- (2) L-appell imsemmi fis-subartikolu (1) għandu jsir fil-Qorti tal-Appell (Ġurisdizzjoni Inferjuri) komposta kif hemm fl-artikolu 41(6) tal-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili.
- Kap. 12.
- (3) Appell fil-Qorti tal-Appell (Ġurisdizzjoni Inferjuri) kif hemm fis-subartikolu (1) għandu jiġi ppreżentat fir-registru ta' dik il-Qorti fi żmien għoxrin gurnata mid-data meta l-għoti tal-piena amministrattiva jiġi notifikat lill-persuna sugġetta, u dak l-appell għandu jkun regolat mid-dispożizzjonijiet applikabbli tal-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-appelli.
- Kap. 12.
- (4) Għall-finijiet li tiġi mharsa l-kunfidenzjalità tal-informazzjoni u ta' dokumenti li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-proċedimenti, l-appell fil-Qorti tal-Appell (Ġurisdizzjoni Inferjuri) li jiġi ppreżentat kif hawn f'dan l-artikolu għandu jinstema' bil-magħluq u salv id-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikolu 13C is-sentenza m'għandhiex tiġi pubblikata."
- Žjieda tal-artikoli godda mal-Att prinċipali.
- 8.** Minnufih wara l-artikolu 13A tal-Att prinċipali għandhom

jizdiedu dawn l-artikoli godda li ġejjin:

"Ġbir ta' pieni amministrattivi. Kap. 12. 13B. (1) Piena amministrattiva, li tiġi notifikata lill-persuna suġġetta li tiġi imposta fuqha permezz ta' avviż bil-miktub, li ma jkunx sar appell minnha kif jingħad fid-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikolu 13A u li ma tithallasx fi żmien għoxrin gurnata mid-data meta tiġi notifikata, tkun tista' tingabar bħala dejn ċivili, u l-avviż bil-miktub għandu, malli tiġi notifikata kopja tiegħu permezz ta' att ġudizzjarju lill-persuna suġġetta msemmija fl-avviż, ikun jikkostitwixxi titolu eżekuttiv għall-finijiet u effetti kollha tat-Titolu VII tat-Taqsima I tat-Tieni Ktieb tal-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili.

(2) Meta jsir appell mill-piena amministrattiva u dak l-appell jiġi deċiż, deżert jew irtirat, il-piena amministrattiva tkun tista' tiġi infurzata kif hemm fil-proċedura li hemm provdut dwarha fis-subartikolu (1).

Pubblikazzjoni ta' pieni amministrattivi. 13Ċ. Kull piena amministrattiva li tiġi imposta mill-Korp kif jingħad fir-regoli u regolamenti magħmulin taħt l-artikolu 13, li tkun ta' iżjed minn għaxart elef euro (€10,000) u li tkun finali u dovuta għandha tkun soġġetta għal publikazzjoni kif jingħad f'kull politika u proċedura stabbiliti mill-Bord ta' Gvernaturi msemmija fl-artikolu 18."

9. L-artikolu 14 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 14 tal-Att prinċipali.

(a) minnufih qabel it-tifsira "awtorità sorveljanti" għandha tiżdied din it-tifsira ġdida li ġejja:

" "awtorità kompetenti" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħtija lilha b'regolamenti li jkunu fis-seħħ minn żmien għal żmien taħt dan l-Att jew hekk kif jista' jiġi preskritt taħt dan l-Att;" u

(b) it-tifsira "persuna suġġetta" għandha tiġi sostitwita b'dan li ġej:

" "persuna suġġetta" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħtija lilha b'regolamenti fis-seħħ minn żmien għal żmien taħt dan l-Att jew hekk kif jista' jiġi preskritt taħt dan l-Att;" .

10. Is-subartikolu (1) tal-artikolu 16 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 16 tal-Att prinċipali.

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(a) fil-paragrafu (ċ) tiegħu l-kliem "jikkordina ma' awtoritajiet sorveljanti" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "jikkordina ma' kull awtorità f'Malta jew barra minn Malta li jkollha funzjonijiet sorveljanti jew regolatorji"; u

(b) il-paragrafu (k) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(k) fuq talba li ssirli jew minn jeddu u bla ħsara għal dawk il-kondizzjonijiet u restrizzjonijiet li jista' jistabbilixxi, li jikkopera u jiskambja informazzjoni ma':

(i) kull entità, awtorità jew aġenzija barranija li huwa jikkonsidra bħala li għandhom funzjonijiet ekwivalenti jew simili għal dawk imsemmija fil-paragrafi (a) u (b);

(ii) kull awtorità sorveljanti f'Malta jew ma' kull awtorità sorveljanti barra minn Malta li huwa jikkonsidra bħala li jkollha funzjonijiet ekwivalenti jew simili għal awtorità sorveljanti f'Malta, u

(iii) kull awtorità kompetenti oħra;"

Emenda tal-artikolu 26 tal-Att prinċipali.

11. Fis-subartikolu (2) tal-artikolu 26 tal-Att prinċipali, il-kliem "Fit-twettiq tar-responsabbiltajiet tiegħu taht is-subartikolu (1), il-Korp" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "Il-Korp għandu jwettaq ir-responsabbiltajiet tiegħu taht is-subartikolu (1) fuq bażi ta' sensittività għar-riskju u, meta jkun qed jagħmel hekk, il-Korp".

Żjieda tal-artikolu 26A gdid mal-Att prinċipali.

12. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 26 tal-Att prinċipali, għandu jiżdied dan l-artikolu gdid li ġej:

"Ingagġ ta' esperti.

26A. (1) Il-Korp jista', kull meta jqis li jkun hekk meħtieġ jew spedjenti, jingagġa lil xi persuna waħda jew aktar, li huwa jqis li jkollhom il-kompetenza xierqa, biex jassistuh fit-twettiq ta' hidmiet speċifiċi li jkunu jeħtieġu kompetenza bħal dik, u, għal dan l-għan, il-Korp jista' jimponi dawk il-kondizzjonijiet li huwa jqis li jkunu meħtieġa.

(2) L-artikolu 33 u l-artikolu 34(1) għandhom *mutatis mutandis* japplikaw għal kull persuna li tiġi ingagġata mill-Korp taht dan l-artikolu."

Emenda tal-artikolu 27 tal-Att prinċipali.

13. L-artikolu 27 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) is-subartikolu (1) tal-artikolu 27 għandu jiġi sostitwit

b'dan li ġej:

"(1) Il-Korp għandu, fuq talba jew fuq inizjattiva tiegħu, jikkopera u jiskambja informazzjoni ma' kull awtorità ta' sorveljanza f'Malta jew ma' kull entità oħra li jkollha funzjonijiet regolatorji jew ta' sorveljanza barra minn Malta, meta l-Korp ikun tal-fehma li dik il-koperazzjoni u skambju ta' informazzjoni ser tgħin biex jiġi żgurat li s-settur finanzjarju u setturi rilevanti oħra ma jintużawx għal finijiet kriminali, jew sabiex tiġi mharsa l-integrità tagħhom:

Iżda meta l-Korp jiskambja informazzjoni ma' xi awtorità ta' sorveljanza f'Malta, dik l-awtorità ta' sorveljanza għandha tipprovdi lill-Korp, meta tintalab tagħmel dan u b'mod tempestiv, informazzjoni dwar l-użu magħmul mill-informazzjoni skambjata u dwar l-eżitu ta' kull spezzjoni jew azzjoni regolatorja oħra li tittiehed abbażi ta' dik l-informazzjoni."; u

(b) Fil-paragrafu (b) tas-subartikolu (3), il-kliem "twestaq, f'isem il-Korp, eżamijiet fuq il-post" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "twestaq, f'isem jew flimkien mal-Korp, eżamijiet fuq il-post jew lil hinn mill-post".

14. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 27 tal-Att prinċipali, għandu jidder dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

Żjieda tal-artikolu 27A ġdid mal-Att prinċipali.

"Koperazzjoni ma' Korpi ta' Informazzjoni Finanzjarja korrispondenti.

27A. (1) Fit-twettiq tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu taħt l-artikolu 16(1)(k)(i), il-Korp jista' jiskambja kull informazzjoni li tista' tkun rilevanti fl-ipproċessar jew l-analisi ta' informazzjoni jew f'investigazzjonijiet dwar operazzjonijiet jew attivitajiet finanzjarji li jkollhom x'jaqsmu ma' *money laundering* jew l-attività kriminali sottostanti, jew finanzjament tat-terroriżmu u l-persuni li jkunu involuti.

(2) Il-Korp jista' jimponi kondizzjonijiet u restrizzjonijiet dwar l-użu ta' informazzjoni skambjata hekk kif huwa jista' jistabbilixxi, inkluż l-għemil minn qabel, jekk huwa jqis li dan ikun meħtieġ, ta' kull memorandum ta' fehma jew ta' xi qbil ieħor li jirregola kull tali skambju ta' informazzjoni:

Iżda l-kxif ta' informazzjoni għandu jsir bla ħsara għall-kondizzjoni li l-informazzjoni jew dokumenti mikxufa m'għandhomx jintużaw għal finijiet oħra ħlief dawk indikati mill-Korp, u lanqas li dawn jixxerrdu lil xi persuna, entità, awtorità jew aġenzija oħra, mingħajr il-kunsens espress mogħti bil-quddiem mill-Korp.

(3) Il-kunsens imsemmi fil-proviso għas-subartikolu (2) għandu jingħata mill-Korp mingħajr dewmien u m'għandux jinżamm milli jingħata ħlief meta fil-fehma tal-Korp dak il-kxif:

(a) ikun jista' jxekkel xi investigazzjoni kriminali;

(b) ikun b'mod ċar sproporzjonat mal-interessi legittimi ta' Malta jew ta' xi persuna; jew

(ċ) ma jkunx skont il-prinċipji fundamentali tal-liġi ta' Malta.

(4) Il-Korp għandu jwieġeb, b'mod tempestiv, għal talbiet għal informazzjoni li jsirulu minn xi awtorità, entità jew aġenzija barranija li hija meqjusa li għandha funzjonijiet ekwivalenti jew simili għal dawk tal-Korp taħt l-artikolu 16(1)(a) u (b):

Iżda l-Korp jista' jirrifjuta milli jikxef xi dokument jew informazzjoni:

(a) jekk fil-fehma tiegħu dak il-kxif ma jkunx skont il-prinċipji fundamentali tal-liġi ta' Malta;

(b) jekk fil-fehma tiegħu l-awtorità, entità jew aġenzija barranija ma tkunx marbuta bi dmirijiet ta' segretezza u kunfidenzjalità li huma mill-inqas ekwivalenti għal dawk tal-Korp jew ma tkunx tipprovdi miżuri effettivi sabiex jiġu mharsa l-kunfidenzjalità u s-segretezza; jew

(ċ) abbażi ta' nuqqas ta' reċiproċità jew nuqqas ta' koperazzjoni ripetuta mill-awtorità, entità jew aġenzija barranija li tkun qiegħda tagħmel it-talba:

Iżda wkoll meta t-talba għal informazzjoni ssir minn xi awtorità, entità jew aġenzija ta' Stat Membru li hija meqjusa li għandha funzjonijiet ekwivalenti jew simili għal dawk tal-Korp taħt l-artikolu 16(1)(a) u (b), il-Korp jista' jirrifjuta li jikxef xi dokument jew informazzjoni biss jekk fil-fehma tiegħu dak il-kxif ma jkunx skont il-prinċipji fundamentali tal-liġi ta' Malta.

(5) Meta l-Korp jirrifjuta milli jagħti l-kunsens tiegħu taħt is-subartikolu (3) jew li jikxef informazzjoni kif jingħad f'kull proviso għas-subartikolu (4), għandha tingħata spjegazzjoni dwar dan.

(6) Mingħajr preġudizzju għad-dispożizzjonijiet l-oħra ta' dan l-artikolu, meta l-Korp jirċievi informazzjoni skont kif maħsub fl-artikolu 16(1)(a) li jikkonċerna xi Stat Membru ieħor, il-Korp għandu minnufih jgħaddi kull informazzjoni rilevanti lill-awtorità, entità jew aġenzija f'dak l-Istat Membru, li jitqies li jkollu funzjonijiet ekwivalenti jew simili għal dawk tal-Korp taħt l-artikolu 16(1)(a) u (b).".

15. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 27A tal-Att prinċipali, għandu jiżdied dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

Żjieda tal-artikolu 27B ġdid mal-Att prinċipali.

"Koperazzjoni mal-Awtoritajiet Kompetenti.

27B. Mingħajr preġudizzju għall-ġeneralità tad-dispożizzjonijiet tal-Att, meta l-Korp ikollu fil-pussess tiegħu dokumentazzjoni jew informazzjoni li jqis li hija ta' interess u rilevanza għal xi awtorità kompetenti fil-qadi tal-funzjonijiet tagħha, il-Korp jista', jekk iqis li jkun hekk meħtieġ jew spedjenti, u bla ħsara għal kull kondizzjoni u restrizzjoni li l-Korp jista' jimponi, jgħaddi dik id-dokumentazzjoni jew informazzjoni lill-awtorità kompetenti rilevanti.".

16. Fis-subartikolu (4) tal-artikolu 28 tal-Att prinċipali, il-kliem "sospiza mill-Korp għall-perjodu ta' zmien imsemmi fis-subartikolu (2) jew il-perjodu estiż imsemmi fis-subartikolu (3)" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "sospiza skont dan l-artikolu".

Emenda tal-artikolu 28 tal-Att prinċipali.

17. Minnufih wara s-subartikolu (4) tal-artikolu 31 tal-Att prinċipali, għandu jiżdied dan is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 31 tal-Att prinċipali.

"(5) Il-Pulizija għandha, fuq talba u b'mod tempestiv, tgħarraf lill-Korp dwar l-użu li jsir minn informazzjoni provduta mill-Korp taħt dan l-artikolu u dwar l-eżitu ta' investigazzjonijiet li jkun saru in segwitu tal-informazzjoni provduta.".

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Żjieda tal-artikolu 31A ġdid mal-Att prinċipali.

18. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 31 tal-Att prinċipali, għandu jizdied dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

"Rispons tal-Awtoritajiet Kompetenti.

31A. (1) Meta l-Korp jipprovdi informazzjoni lil xi awtorità kompetenti kif provdut taht dan l-Att, dik l-awtorità kompetenti għandha, fuq talba u b' mod tempestiv, tgħarraf lill-Korp, b'informazzjoni dwar l-użu magħmul mill-informazzjoni provduta mill-Korp u kull eżitu ta' kull investigazzjoni jew kull azzjoni oħra li tkun ittiehdet abbażi ta' dik l-informazzjoni.

(2) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu il-frazi awtorità kompetenti għandha tinkludi biss lill-Kontrollur tad-Dwana meta dan ikun qed iwettaq dmirijiet taht xi regolamenti li jistgħu jinħargu jew li jkunu fis-seħh minn żmien għal żmien u li jkollhom x'jaqsmu mal-moviment transkonfini ta' flus kontanti u strumenti finanzjarji oħra."

Sostituzzjoni tal-artikolu 32 tal-Att prinċipali.

19. L-artikolu 32 tal-Att prinċipali, għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"Rispons għal rapporti.

32. Il-Korp għandu, fuq talba tal-persuna suġġetta jew minn jeddu, jagħti lil dik il-persuna suġġetta li tkun għamlet ir-rapport lill-Korp skont is-subartikolu 16(1)(a) dik l-informazzjoni li l-Korp iqis xierqa biex iżomm lill-persuna suġġetta mgħarrfa dwar l-eżitu tar-rapport ipprezentat u kull informazzjoni oħra li l-Korp iqis li tkun ta' interess għal dik il-persuna suġġetta biex tirregola l-affarijiet tagħha u biex jassistiha twettaq dmirijietha skont dan l-Att jew regolamenti magħmulin tahtu."

Emenda tal-artikolu 34 tal-Att prinċipali.

20. L-artikolu 34 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) is-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan li ġej:

"(1) Il-Korp, u l-uffiċjali, l-impjegati u l-aġenti tiegħu, sew jekk ikunu għadhom fis-servizz tal-Korp sew jekk le, għandhom jittrattaw kull informazzjoni li huma jiksbu fit-twettiq ta' dmirijiethom jew fl-eżerċizzju tal-funzjonijiet tagħhom taht dan l-Att bħala kunfidenzjali, u m'għandhom jikxfu ebda informazzjoni li jkollha x'taqsam mal-affarijiet tal-Korp jew ta' xi persuna, li huma jkunu kisbu fit-twettiq ta' dmirijiethom jew fl-eżerċizzju tal-funzjonijiet tagħhom taht dan l-Att hlief:

(a) meta jkunu awtorizzati jagħmlu dan taħt xi waħda mid-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att;

(b) għall-fini tal-qadi ta' dmirjiethom jew l-eżerċizzju tal-funzjonijiet tagħhom taħt dan l-Att;

(ċ) quddiem xi qorti jew tribunal kompetenti fi proċedimenti ta' appell li jkunu saru skont id-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikolu 13A, jew fi proċedimenti li l-Korp ikun parti fihom għall-fini tal-infurzar ta' xi piena imposta mill-Korp taħt dan l-Att;

(d) fil-forma ta' gabra ta' *data* jew informazzjoni statistika ohra, li fl-opinjoni tal-Korp ma twassalx għall-identifikazzjoni ta' xi persuna speċifika u li ma tippregudika ebda analisi jew investigazzjoni; u

(e) meta jkun speċifikament u espressament meħtieġ li jsir dan taħt id-dispożizzjoni ta' xi liġi:

Iżda ebda haġa f'dan l-artikolu m'għandha tinftiehem bħala li teħtieġ lill-Korp jikxef xi informazzjoni li tkun waslitlu fil-qadi tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu taħt is-subartikoli 16(1)(a), 16(1)(b) u 16(1)(k) jew informazzjoni li tista' tippregudika xi analisi jew investigazzjoni.";

(b) is-subartikoli (3) u (4) tiegħu għandhom jiġu enumerati mill-ġdid bħala s-subartikoli (2) u (3) u s-subartikolu (2) tiegħu għandu jiġi mħassar;

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (2) tiegħu, kif enumerat mill-ġdid, il-kliem "Il-Korp jista', b'mod partikolari, jirrofta li jikxef xi dokument jew informazzjoni", għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "Mingħajr preġudizzju għad-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikolu 27A, il-Korp ma jkun obligat jipprovdi ebda informazzjoni jew jikxef xi dokumenti, u jista' jirrifjuta milli jagħmel dan";

(d) fis-subartikolu (3) tiegħu, kif enumerat mill-ġdid, il-kliem "xi awtorità kompetenti f'Malta jew barra minn Malta", għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "xi awtorità f'Malta jew barra minn Malta"; u

(e) fil-proviso mas-subartikolu (3) tiegħu, kif enumerat mill-ġdid, il-kliem "m'għandux, mingħajr il-kunsens espress tal-Korp, jintuza" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "m'għandux,

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mingħajr il-kunsens espress tal-Korp, jiġi mxerred jew jintuża".

Emenda tal-
artikolu 35 tal-
Att prinċipali.

21. Fil-paragrafu (a) tal-artikolu 35 tal-Att prinċipali, il-kliem "drittijiet li jiġihallu lill-Korp" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "drittijiet li jintalbu minn u jiġihallu lill-Korp".

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru 59 tad-29 ta' Novembru, 2017.

CLAUDETTE BUTTIGIEG
Deputy Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

I assent.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

1st December, 2017

ACT No. XXVIII of 2017

AN ACT to amend the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Cap. 373.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. The short title of this Act is the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2017, and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act".

Short title.

Cap. 373.

2. In article 2 of the principal Act, immediately after the definition "EEA State" there shall be added the following new definition:

Amendment of article 2 of the principal Act.

"European Supervisory Authority" means the European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority), established by Regulation (EU) No. 1093/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, or the European Supervisory

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Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) established by Regulation (EU) No. 1094/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council or the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority) established by Regulation (EU) No. 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council;".

Amendment of
article 4 of the
principal Act.

3. Sub-article (9) of article 4 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

"(9) An investigation order shall be served on the persons referred to in sub-article (1) and an attachment order shall be served on the garnishee and on the suspect by an officer of the Executive Police or by an officer of the issuing authority or by an officer of the Courts or of the Asset Recovery Bureau:

Provided that such orders may also be served on the garnishee and the persons referred to in sub-article (1), except for the suspect, by electronic mail in which case the person upon whom the order is served shall acknowledge receipt by return electronic mail by not later than one working day from such service. In default of receipt of such acknowledgement the order shall be served physically by any of the officers referred to in this sub-article without prejudice to the validity of the service made by electronic mail:

Cap. 101.

Provided further that the procedure stipulated in this sub-article shall apply, in addition to that provided in sub-article (9) of article 24A of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, with regard to service of investigation orders and attachment orders issued under the said Ordinance."

Amendment of
article 12 of the
principal Act.

4. Article 12 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-article (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(1) The Minister may, acting on the advice of the Unit, make rules or regulations generally with a view to combating money laundering and funding of terrorism or for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act, and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may by such rules or regulations require credit institutions, financial institutions and other undertakings and professions operating within the financial sector and other relevant sectors, to implement measures, procedures, systems and controls to prevent money laundering and

the funding of terrorism, including identification, risk management, record-keeping, training and reporting.";

(b) sub-article (4) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(4) The Minister may, in consultation with the Minister responsible for justice, by regulation amend, alter or add to the list of offences specified in the Second Schedule to this Act."; and

(c) immediately after sub-article (4) thereof, there shall be added the following new sub-article (5):

"(5) The Minister may prescribe by regulations any matter required to be prescribed by this Act."

5. Immediately after article 12 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new article:

Addition of a new article 12A to the principal Act.

"National Co-ordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism.

12A. (1) The Minister may, by regulations made under this Act, establish a committee that shall be referred to as the National Co-ordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism.

(2) The committee established under sub-article (1) shall draw up a national strategy and policies to combat money laundering, the funding of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and co-ordinate any action to be taken to develop, implement and review the national strategy and policies, including the co-ordination of national risk assessments and the actions to be taken to address any threats, vulnerabilities and risks identified.

(3) The committee established under sub-article (1) shall be composed of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for finance, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for home affairs, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for justice, the Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, the Commissioner for Revenue, the Chairman of the Malta Financial Services Authority, the Chairperson of the Malta Gaming Authority, the Commissioner of Police, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Unit and the Chairperson of the Asset Recovery Bureau or their deputies.

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(4) The committee may, whenever it deems so necessary or expedient, engage one or more persons, whom it considers to be in possession of suitable expertise, to assist it in carrying out specific tasks requiring such expertise.

(5) The Chairperson of the committee shall be the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for finance.

(6) The Minister shall prescribe by means of regulations the powers to be conferred on the committee and the procedures it is to follow for the proper carrying out of its functions.

(7) The remuneration payable, if any, to any member of the committee shall be determined by the Minister."

Substitution of article 13 of the principal Act.

6. Article 13 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

"Punishments, penalties and other measures.

13. (1) The Minister may make rules or regulations to provide for criminal punishments, administrative penalties and other measures that may be imposed in respect of any contravention, breach or failure to comply with any rules, regulations or directives made under this Act:

Provided that:

(a) criminal punishments so imposed shall not exceed a fine (*multa*) of one million euro (€1,000,000) or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both such fine and imprisonment as set out in the rules or regulations concerned; and

(b) administrative penalties so imposed shall not exceed:

(i) five million euro (€5,000,000); or

(ii) twice the amount of the benefit derived from the contravention, breach or failure to comply, where this can be determined; or

(iii) ten *per centum* (10%) of the total annual turnover according to the latest approved available financial statements.

(2) The administrative penalties referred to under sub-article (1) shall be imposed by the Unit in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board of Governors referred to in article 18, from time to time.

(3) The Unit may, in cross-border cases, co-operate with any foreign national or supranational body, authority or agency which it considers to have functions equivalent or analogous to those mentioned in article 26(1), to coordinate the imposition of administrative penalties or other measures.

(4) Where an administrative penalty or other measure, as provided for in this article, is imposed in respect of a subject person carrying out relevant financial business, as defined under regulations in force from time to time under this Act, the Unit shall notify the relevant European Supervisory Authority of the action taken and, where applicable, the European Supervisory Authority shall also be notified of any pending appeal and the outcome thereof.

(5) For the purposes of this article and articles 13A and 13B the term "subject person" has the same meaning assigned to it by article 14 of this Act."

7. Article 13A of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

Substitution of article 13A of the principal Act.

"Appeals from administrative penalties.

13A. (1) Whenever a subject person feels aggrieved by an administrative penalty imposed by the Unit in terms of rules and regulations made under article 13, and that administrative penalty exceeds five thousand euro (€5,000), whether imposed in respect of one or more contraventions, the subject person may appeal such administrative penalty both on points of law and fact.

(2) The appeal as referred to in sub-article (1) shall lie to the Court of Appeal (Inferior Jurisdiction) constituted in terms of article 41(6) of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.

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Cap. 12. (3) An appeal to the Court of Appeal (Inferior Jurisdiction) in terms of sub-article (1) shall be filed in the registry of the said Court within twenty days from the date when the imposition of the administrative penalty is notified to the subject person, and such an appeal shall be regulated by the applicable provisions of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure relating to appeals.

(4) For the purposes of safeguarding the confidentiality of information and documents relating to the proceedings, the appeal before the Court of Appeal (Inferior Jurisdiction) filed in terms of this article shall be heard *in camera* and saving the provisions of article 13C the judgment shall not be published.

Addition of new articles to the principal Act.

8. Immediately after article 13A of the principal Act there shall be added the following new articles:

"Recovery of administrative penalties.

13B. (1) An administrative penalty, served on the subject person against whom it is imposed by means of a notice in writing, which is not appealed in accordance with the provisions of article 13A and which is not paid within twenty days from the date of notification, shall be recoverable as a civil debt, and the notice in writing shall, upon the service of a copy thereof by means of a judicial act on the subject person indicated in the notice, constitute an executive title for all effects and purposes of Title VII of Part I of Book Second of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.

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(2) Where the administrative penalty is appealed and the appeal is decided, deserted or withdrawn, the administrative penalty shall be enforceable in accordance with the procedure provided for in sub-article (1).

Publication of administrative penalties.

13C. Any administrative penalty imposed by the Unit in terms of rules and regulations made under article 13, which exceeds ten thousand euro (€10,000) and which has become final and due shall be subject to publication in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board of Governors referred to in article 18."

Amendment of article 14 of the principal Act.

9. Article 14 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) immediately before the definition "subject person" there shall be added the following new definition:

" "competent authority" shall have the same meaning

assigned to it by regulations in force from time to time under this Act or as may be prescribed under this Act"; and

(b) the definition "subject person" shall be substituted by the following:

" "subject person" shall have the same meaning assigned to it by regulations in force from time to time under this Act or as may be prescribed under this Act;".

10. Sub-article (1) of article 16 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of article 16 of the principal Act.

(a) in paragraph (c) thereof the words "liaise with supervisory authorities" shall be substituted by the words "liaise with any authority in or outside Malta having supervisory or regulatory functions"; and

(b) paragraph (k) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(k) upon request or on its own motion and subject to such conditions and restrictions as it may determine, to cooperate and exchange information with:

(i) any foreign body, authority or agency which it considers to have functions equivalent or analogous to those mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b);

(ii) any supervisory authority in Malta or with any authority outside Malta which it considers to have equivalent or analogous functions to a supervisory authority in Malta; and

(iii) any other competent authority;".

11. In sub-article (2) of article 26 of the principal Act, the words "In carrying out its responsibilities under sub-article (1) the Unit" shall be substituted by the words "The Unit shall carry out its responsibilities under sub-article (1) on a risk sensitive basis and, in so doing, the Unit". Amendment of article 26 of the principal Act.

12. Immediately after article 26 of the principal Act, there shall Addition of a new article 26A to the principal Act.

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be added the following new article:

"Engagement of experts. 26A. (1) The Unit may, whenever it deems so necessary or expedient, engage one or more persons, whom it considers to be in possession of suitable expertise, to assist it in carrying out specific tasks requiring such expertise, and, for this purpose, the Unit may impose such conditions as it considers necessary.

(2) Article 33 and article 34(1) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to any person engaged by the Unit under this article."

Amendment of article 27 of the principal Act.

13. Article 27 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-article (1) of article 27 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

"(1) The Unit shall, upon request or on its own motion, co-operate and exchange information with any supervisory authority in Malta or any other body having regulatory or supervisory functions outside Malta, when the Unit is of the view that such co-operation and exchange of information would assist in ensuring that the financial sector and other relevant sectors are not used for criminal purposes or to safeguard their integrity:

Provided that where the Unit exchanges any information with a supervisory authority in Malta, that supervisory authority shall provide the Unit upon request and in a timely manner with information on the use made of the exchanged information and any outcome of any inspection or any other regulatory action undertaken on the basis of that information."; and

(b) in paragraph (b) of sub-article (3), the words "to carry out, on behalf of the Unit, on-site examinations" shall be substituted by the words "to carry out, on behalf of or jointly with the Unit, on-site or off-site examinations".

Addition of a new article 27A to the principal Act.

14. Immediately after article 27 of the principal Act, there shall

be added the following new article:

"Co-operation
with
counterpart
Financial
Intelligence
Units.

27A. (1) In carrying out its functions under article 16(1)(k)(i), the Unit may exchange, any information that may be relevant for the processing or analysis of information or to investigations regarding financial transactions or activities related to money laundering or the underlying criminal activity, or funding of terrorism and the persons involved.

(2) The Unit may impose conditions and restrictions on the use of exchanged information as it may determine, including the prior conclusion, if it deems so necessary, of any memorandum of understanding or other agreement to regulate any such exchange of information:

Provided that the disclosure of information shall be subject to the condition that the information or documents disclosed shall not be used for purposes other than those indicated by the Unit nor shall they be disseminated to any other person, body, authority or agency, without the express prior consent of the Unit.

(3) The consent referred to in the proviso to sub-article (2) shall be provided by the Unit promptly and shall not be withheld unless in the opinion of the Unit such disclosure:

(a) could lead to the impairment of a criminal investigation;

(b) would be clearly disproportionate to the legitimate interests of Malta or of a person; or

(c) would not be in accordance with the fundamental principles of Maltese law.

(4) The Unit shall respond, in a timely manner, to requests for information made by any foreign authority, body or agency considered to have functions equivalent or analogous to those of the Unit under article 16(1)(a) and (b):

Provided that the Unit may refuse to disclose any document or information:

(a) if in its opinion such disclosure would not be in accordance with fundamental principles of Maltese law;

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(b) if in its opinion the foreign authority, body or agency does not have duties of secrecy and confidentiality that are at least equivalent to those of the Unit or does not provide effective measures to protect confidentiality and secrecy; or

(c) on the grounds of lack of reciprocity or repeated non-cooperation by the foreign authority, body or agency making the request:

Provided further that where the request for information is made by an authority, body or agency of a Member State considered to have functions equivalent or analogous to those of the Unit under article 16(1)(a) and (b), the Unit may refuse to disclose any document or information only if in its opinion such disclosure would not be in accordance with fundamental principles of Maltese law.

(5) Where the Unit refuses to grant consent under sub-article (3) or to disclose information in terms of the provisos to sub-article (4), an explanation shall be provided.

(6) Without prejudice to the other provisions of this article, where the Unit receives information pursuant to its function under article 16(1)(a) which concerns another Member State, it shall promptly forward any relevant information to the authority, body or agency within that Member State, considered to have functions equivalent or analogous to those of the Unit under article 16(1)(a) and (b)."

Addition of a new article 27B to the principal Act.

15. Immediately after article 27A of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new article:

"Cooperation with Competent Authorities.

27B. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of the Act, where the Unit is in possession of documentation or information which it considers to be of interest and relevance to any competent authority in the pursuance of its functions, the Unit may, if it deems it necessary or expedient, and subject to any conditions and restrictions that the Unit may impose, transmit such documentation or information to the relevant competent authority."

16. In sub-article (4) of article 28 of the principal Act, the words "suspended by the Unit for the period of time referred to in sub-article (2) or the extended period referred to in sub-article (3)" shall be substituted by the words "suspended in terms of this article".

Amendment to article 28 of the principal Act.

17. Immediately after sub-article (4) of article 31 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new sub-article:

Amendment to article 31 of the principal Act.

"(5) The Police shall, upon request and in a timely manner, inform the Unit on the use made of information provided by the Unit under this article and on the outcome of any investigations carried out pursuant to the information provided."

18. Immediately after article 31 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following new article:

Addition of a new article 31A to the principal Act.

"Feedback by competent authorities.

31A. (1) Where the Unit provides information to a competent authority as provided for under this Act, that competent authority shall inform the Unit, upon request and in a timely manner, with information on the use made of the information provided by the Unit and any outcome of any investigation or any other action undertaken on the basis of that information.

(2) For the purposes of this article the term competent authority shall only include the Comptroller of Customs when carrying out duties under any regulations that may be issued or are in force from time to time relating to the cross border movement of cash and other financial instruments."

19. Article 32 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

Substitution of article 32 of the principal Act.

"Feedback on reports.

32. The Unit shall, at the request of the subject person or on its own motion, give to the subject person which makes a report to the Unit as provided for under sub-article 16(1)(a) such information as the Unit deems appropriate to keep the subject person informed about the outcome of the report submitted and any other information which the Unit considers to be of interest to the subject person to regulate its affairs and to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act or any regulation made thereunder."

20. Article 34 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 34 of the principal Act.

(a) sub-article (1) thereof, shall be substituted by the

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following:

"(1) The Unit, and its officers, employees and agents, whether still in service of the Unit or not, shall treat any information acquired in the performance of their duties or the exercise of their functions under this Act as confidential, and shall not disclose any information relating to the affairs of the Unit or of any person, which they have acquired in the performance of their duties or the exercise of their functions under this Act except:

(a) when authorised to do so under any of the provisions of this Act;

(b) for the purpose of the performance of their duties or the exercise of their functions under this Act;

(c) to any competent court or tribunal in any appeal proceedings instituted in accordance with the provisions of article 13A, or in proceedings to which the Unit is a party for the purpose of the enforcement of any penalty imposed by the Unit under this Act;

(d) in the form of an aggregation of data or other statistical information, which in the opinion of the Unit does not lead to the identification of any specific person and which does not prejudice any analysis or investigation; and

(e) when specifically and expressly required to do so under a provision of any law:

Provided that nothing in this article shall be construed as requiring the Unit to disclose any information received in carrying out its functions under sub-articles 16(1)(a), 16(1)(b) and 16(1)(k) or information which may prejudice any analysis or investigation.";

(b) sub-articles (3) and (4) thereof shall be renumbered as sub-article (2) and (3) and sub-article (2) thereof shall be deleted;

(c) in sub-article (2) thereof, as renumbered, the words "The Unit may, in particular, refuse to disclose any document or information" shall be substituted by the words "Without

prejudice to the provisions of article 27A, the Unit shall not be obliged to provide any information or disclose any documents, and may refuse to do so";

(d) in sub-article (3) thereof, as renumbered, the words "a competent authority in Malta or outside Malta" shall be substituted by the words "an authority in Malta or outside Malta"; and

(e) in the proviso of sub-article (3) thereof, as renumbered the words "shall not, without the express consent of the Unit, be used" shall be substituted by the words "shall not, without the express consent of the Unit, be further disseminated or be used".

21. In paragraph (a) of article 35 of the principal Act, the words "fees payable to the Unit" shall be substituted by the words "fees charged by and payable to the Unit".

Amendment of
article 35 of the
principal Act.

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 59 of the 29th November, 2017.

CLAUDETTE BUTTIGIEG
Deputy Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Clerk of the House of Representatives

