

Conference: TEDURAIN'21

Committee:UNODC

Topic: Money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism

Country:Bulgaria

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Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria, is a country located in the Balkans. It is a full member of the European Union. It is surrounded by Serbia and North Macedonia in the west, the Black Sea in the east, Romania in the north, Greece in the south and Turkey in the southeast. With a surface area of ​​110,994 square kilometers, it is the 16th largest country in Europe.Bulgarian customs rules It is necessary to pay attention to all the rules issued by the Bulgarian authorities in 2020. In particular, it is necessary to pay attention to the amounts of gold, cigarettes, alcohol, tea and coffee, along with prohibited products and goods. It is possible to pass within the customs border without passing these limits.

 - It is necessary to have a maximum of 10 thousand euros on the citizens of the country who will be entering and leaving.

 - Persons who have money in the amount not subject to declaration (less than 10 thousand euros) have the right to use the ‘green pass’ directly.

 - If a person has more than 10 thousand euros, he must definitely declare it.

 - Many different items such as ammunition, potent and poisonous substances, weapons, works of art, protected plant and animal species, explosives or narcotic substances are prohibited from being imported into Bulgaria.

 - All the necessary information together with the passport must be provided to the relevant person at the time of customs.

Bulgaria has done its best under the european presidency on money laundering.Istanbul, 7 June In the Bulgarian Presidency, the Council of Europe agreed with the European Parliament to issue a new regulation for the punishment of money laundering offenders.According to a statement from the Council of Europe, the new regulations aim to combat money laundering offenders through criminal laws.The aim of the new directive is to prevent and stop criminals – including those who support terrorism

 – from accessing financial resources.

According to the statement made by the Council of Europe, the main objectives of the new regulation are;

 - use of minimum regulations for the definition of criminal offenses and sanctions related to money laundering,

 - to remove cross-border judicial barriers and strengthen cooperation between law enforcement forces,

 - To align EU laws, in particular with the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Investigation, Seizure, Confiscation and Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw Convention).

According to the agreement;Those who commit money laundering offenses will be sentenced to up to 4 years in prison, Additional sanctions and measures may be taken by the judge (eg, temporarily or permanently blocking access to public funds).Aggravating factors may also apply to some occupational costs.Member states will be able to determine these aggravating factors according to the nature of the crime (such as corruption, sexual exploitation, drug trafficking).Legal entities will also be held liable for certain money laundering activities and some sanctions may be imposed (such as cessation of access to public funds, legal audits, liquidation).Member states have to integrate these provisions into their national laws within 24 months.

 Security at customs can be increased. Then, instead of one, two people can be employed in the authorities where they can be bribed or threatened. However, the name of the second person will not be officially registered there, so if those dealing with money laundering give bribes after that, they will not be able to bribe or threaten the second employee because they are not aware of the other employee. If the second employee is aware of this issue, they will notify the authorized institution and prevent this method in money laundering.