

The new EU Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Framework: What it means for the Non-Financial Sector

The EU has adopted a new framework to protect its economy and citizens from financial crime. New rules on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism will come into effect on 10 July 2027. This explainer covers what is changing, why it matters for the non-financial sector, and what to expect next.

The new Framework

Money laundering disguises the criminal origin of funds by moving them through legitimate businesses and transactions. **Terrorist financing** involves collecting or providing funds to support terrorism, and often starts with money from legitimate sources.

Firms and professionals exposed to money laundering and terrorist financing risks due to their business activities are known as **obliged entities** and therefore have to follow certain rules.

At present, the rules on anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing for firms and professions **differ across EU Member States**. This fragmentation has created gaps in the defences that criminals and those looking to fund terrorism can exploit.

To address this, the EU adopted **new rules that will apply in all Member States** and across the financial and non-financial sector. AMLA will strengthen this new framework and oversee its effective application.

AMLA is tasked with:

- **Setting common rules** for obliged entities
- Building a **common supervisory methodology** so that obliged entities are assessed and supervised in the same way, no matter where in the EU they operate
- **Coordinating financial intelligence sharing** so that law enforcement authorities can more effectively detect, prevent, and prosecute financial crime

The non-financial sector

Money laundering and terrorist financing can take many forms, which is why EU rules apply to obliged entities beyond banks and other financial institutions.

The non-financial sector includes a wide range of professions and businesses that may face these risks, for example because they handle cash, play a role in high-value transactions or deal with complex ownership structures.

These include:

- Auditors, accountants, tax advisers, and legal professionals
- Notaries and other independent legal professionals
- Trust and company service providers
- Real estate agents and other real estate professionals
- Traders in precious metals and stones
- Traders in high-value goods
- Gambling service providers
- Crowdfunding service providers and intermediaries
- Traders and intermediaries in cultural goods
- Storage and intermediaries for cultural and high-value goods in free zones and customs warehouses
- Credit intermediaries (mortgage and consumer credit)
- Investment migration operators
- Football agents
- Professional football clubs

While rules to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing have applied to many professions and businesses for years, some will be covered for the first time under the new framework, such as football clubs and agents, traders in high-value goods, and crowdfunding service providers and intermediaries.

Next steps

The new rules will start to apply on **10 July 2027** (for professional football clubs and agents from 10 July 2029). They set out what firms and professionals must do to know their customers, identify potential money laundering or terrorist financing risks, and report suspicious activities when they arise. They also define common practices for national supervisors, so that obliged entities are evaluated and supervised uniformly across the EU.

While AMLA develops rules that are applicable across the EU, obliged entities in the non-financial sector will continue to be supervised at national level.

Have your say

Receiving input and feedback from the non-financial sector is essential to develop rules that are practical, proportionate and work for your business or profession. We therefore encourage you to provide your insights and feedback via AMLA's [Public Consultations](#).

In 2026, AMLA will launch a comprehensive set of consultations on draft instruments which affect the non-financial sector, focusing on three main areas:

- EU-wide harmonised rules for businesses and professions
- Strong and consistent supervision across the EU
- EU-level financial intelligence sharing

Follow the links for more information:

[Public Consultations](#)

[AMLA's mission & goals](#)

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Upcoming consultations in 2026

Legal ref.	Name	Consultations / Final Draft		What does it mean?
HARMONIZED RULES FOR BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS				
AMLR 28(1)	Customer Due Diligence	Q1 2026	Q3 2026	<i>What information you must collect about your customers and how to verify it.</i>
AMLR 19(9)	Criteria for business relationships, occasional and linked transactions and lower thresholds	Q1 2026	Q3 2026	<i>For which customers you need to apply anti-money laundering/terrorism financing checks.</i>
AMLR 16(4)	Group-wide policies, procedures and controls	Q2 2026	Q4 2026	<i>Anti-money laundering/terrorism financing rules for companies that are part of a group.</i>
AMLR 17(3)	Third countries that prohibit the application of EU equivalent group-wide policies and procedures	Q2 2026	Q4 2026	<i>What to do when a non-EU country doesn't allow you to apply EU anti-money laundering/terrorism financing rules.</i>
AMLR 10(4)	Business-wide risk assessment	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	<i>How to assess money laundering/terrorism financing risks across your business.</i>
AMLR 26(5)	Ongoing monitoring	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	<i>How to keep customer information up to date and monitor transactions.</i>
AMLAR 69(3)	Reporting of suspicions	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	<i>The format for reporting suspicious transactions to FIUs and providing transaction records.</i>
SUPERVISORY CONVERGENCE & COOPERATION				
AMLD 53(10)	Gravity of AML/CFT obligation breaches	Q1 2026	Q3 2026	<i>How serious different breaches are and how penalties are set.</i>
AMLD 46(4)	Home/host cooperation between supervisors	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	<i>How supervisors in different EU countries work together and exchange information.</i>
AMLAR 11(6)	Central AML/CFT database	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	<i>What information supervisors must share with AMLA's central database.</i>
AMLD 53(11)	Base amounts for imposing pecuniary sanctions	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	<i>Minimum fines for different types of breaches and businesses.</i>
AMLD 40(2)	Supervisory risk assessment methodology for non-financial OEs	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	<i>How supervisors assess the risk level of entities and the information entities need to provide.</i>
AMLD 50(13)	AML/CFT supervisory colleges in the non-financial sector	Q3 2026	Q3 2026	<i>How national supervisors should cooperate when overseeing non-financial businesses operating across multiple EU countries.</i>