

**Act on the detection of proceeds from serious crimes
Money Laundering Act**

Status: Most recently amended by Article 269 of the regulation of 19 June 2020, Federal Law Gazette 2020 I page 1328

Indirect amendment by Article 154a no. 3(a) of the Act of 20 November 2019 I 1626 cannot be implemented because the amended Act of 21 June 2019 Federal Law Gazette I page 846 had already entered into force effective 1 November 2019 when the indirect amendment legislation entered into force

Replaces Act 7613-2 of 13 August 2008 (Federal Law Gazette 2008 I page 1690) (GwG 2008)

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Part 1 Definitions and obliged entities

Section 1 Definitions

(1) For the purposes of this Act, money laundering is an offence under section 261 of the Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*).

(2) For the purposes of this Act, terrorist financing means:

1. providing or collecting property in the knowledge that such property will or is intended to be used, entirely or in part, for the purpose of committing one or more of the following criminal offences:
 - a) an offence under section 129a of the Criminal Code, also in conjunction with section 129b of the Criminal Code, or
 - b) any other offences as described in Articles 3, 5 to 10, and 12 of Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA (OJ L 88, 31 March 2017, page 6),
2. committing an offence under section 89c of the Criminal Code or
3. instigating or aiding and abetting an offence within the meaning of no. 1 or 2.

(3) For the purposes of this Act, identification means

1. establishing identity by collecting information and
2. verifying identity.

(4) For the purposes of this Act, business relationship means any relationship which is directly connected with the commercial or professional activities of the obliged entities and which is expected, at the time when the contact is established, to have an element of duration.

(5) ¹For the purposes of this Act, transaction means any act or, insofar as they appear to be connected, several acts aimed at or resulting in a transfer of funds or other movement of assets or property. ²In the case of intermediation activities of obliged entities as defined in section 2 (1) nos. 14 and 16, the intermediated legal transaction is deemed to be a transaction within the meaning of this Act.

(6) ¹For the purposes of this Act, trust means a legal arrangement established as a trust if the legal institution of a trust is provided for in the law applicable to the establishment of the legal arrangement. ²If the law applicable to the establishment of the legal arrangement provides for a legal institution modelled on the trust, legal arrangements established using this legal institution are also deemed to be trusts.

(7) For the purposes of this Act, property means

1. any asset, whether corporeal or incorporeal, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, and
2. legal documents and instruments in any form, including electronic and digital form, evidencing title to or other rights to assets within the meaning of no. 1.

(8) For the purposes of this Act, game of chance means any game where a player makes a payment in exchange for a chance to win, and where the occurrence of a win or loss depends wholly or predominantly on chance.

(9) For the purposes of this Act, a trader in goods means someone who sells goods commercially – no matter on whose behalf or for whose account they trade.

(10) For the purposes of this Act, valuables mean goods which,

1. on account of their quality, their market value or their intended use stand out from articles of daily use or
2. on account of their price, do not constitute everyday purchases.

They include in particular

1. precious metals such as gold, silver and platinum,
2. precious stones,
3. jewellery, watches and clocks,
4. works of art and antiques,
5. motor vehicles, ships and motor boats as well as aircraft.

(11) For the purposes of this Act, estate agent means someone who commercially acts as an intermediary for purchase, lease or rental agreements relating to land, land rights, commercial property or residential property.

(12) ¹For the purposes of this Act, politically exposed person means any person who is or who has been entrusted with a high-ranking prominent public function at international, European or national level or who is or has been entrusted with a public function of comparable political importance below national level. ²In particular, politically exposed persons include

1. persons with the following functions:
 - a) heads of state, heads of government, ministers, members of the European Commission, deputy and assistant ministers,
 - b) members of parliament or of similar legislative bodies,
 - c) members of the governing bodies of political parties,
 - d) members of supreme courts, of constitutional courts or of other high-level judicial bodies, the decisions of which are usually not subject to further appeal,
 - e) members of the boards of courts of audit,

- f) members of the boards of central banks,
 - g) ambassadors, chargés d'affaires and defence attachés,
 - h) members of the administrative, management or supervisory bodies of state-owned enterprises,
 - i) directors, deputy directors, members of the board or other managers with a comparable function of an international or European intergovernmental organisation;
2. persons exercising functions that are contained in the list published by the European Commission under Article 1 point (13) of Directive (EU) 2018/843 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive (EU) 2015/849 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing, and amending Directives 2009/138/EC and 2013/36/EU (OJ L 156 of 19 June 2018, page 43).

³The Federal Ministry of Finance must prepare and update a list as defined in Article 1 point (13) of Directive (EU) 2018/843 and provide it to the European Commission. ⁴Organisations as defined in sentence 2 no. 1 (i) whose registered office is in Germany must provide the Federal Ministry of Finance with a list containing prominent public functions specified in this provision each year at the end of the year.

(13) For the purposes of this Act, family member means a close relative of a politically exposed person, in particular

- 1. the spouse or civil partner,
- 2. a child and the child's spouse or civil partner and
- 3. both parents.

(14) For the purposes of this Act, a person known to be a close associate means a natural person for whom the obliged entity has reason to assume that this person

- 1. is, together with a politically exposed person,
 - a) the beneficial owner of an association as defined in section 20 (1) or
 - b) the beneficial owner of a legal arrangement as defined in section 21,
- 2. has any other close business relationships with a politically exposed person or
- 3. is the sole beneficial owner
 - a) of an association as defined in section 20 (1) or
 - b) of a legal arrangement as defined in section 21

for which the obliged entity must have reason to assume that it was established for the de facto benefit of a politically exposed person.

(15) ¹For the purposes of this Act, member of the senior management means an officer or a senior employee of an obliged entity with sufficient knowledge of the obliged entity's money laundering and terrorist financing risk exposure, and with the authority to make decisions in this respect. ²A member of the senior management does not also have to be a member of the executive management.

(16) For the purposes of this Act, group means a group of companies which consists of

- 1. a parent company,
- 2. the subsidiaries of the parent company,
- 3. the entities in which the parent company or its subsidiaries hold a participation, and
- 4. companies linked to each other by a relationship within the meaning of Article 22(1) of Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of companies, amending Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC (OJ L 182 of 29 June 2013, page 19).

(17) For the purposes of this Act, third country means a country

1. that is not a member state of the European Union and
2. that is not a signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

(18) For the purposes of this Act, electronic money means electronic money as defined in section 1 (2) sentences 3 and 4 of the Payment Services Supervision Act (*Zahlungsdienstenaufsichtsgesetz*).

(19) For the purposes of this Act, supervisory authority means the competent supervisory authority as defined in section 50.

(20) For the purposes of this Act, employees are deemed to be reliable if they can be safely assumed

1. to carefully comply with the obligations set out in this Act, other obligations under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law, and policies, controls and procedures introduced at the obliged entity in order to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing,
2. to report facts as specified in section 43 (1) to their supervisor or to the money laundering officer, if one has been appointed, and
3. not to participate, either actively or passively, in suspicious transactions or business relationships.

(21) For the purposes of this Act, correspondent relationship means a business relationship within which the following services are provided:

1. banking services such as providing a current account or another payment account and related services, such as cash management, carrying out international funds transfers or foreign exchange transactions and cheque clearing, by obliged entities as defined in section 2 (1) no. 1 (correspondents) for CRR credit institutions or for companies in a third country that engage in activities equivalent to those of such credit institutions (respondents), or
2. services other than banking services insofar as obliged entities as defined in section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9 (correspondents) may provide these other services under the respective legal provisions
 - a) for other CRR credit institutions or financial institutions within the meaning of Article 3 point (2) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 or
 - b) for companies or persons in a third country that engage in activities equivalent to those of such credit institutions or financial institutions (respondents).

(22) For the purposes of this Act, shell bank means

1. a CRR credit institution or a financial institution within the meaning of Article 3 point (2) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 or
2. a company
 - a) that carries out activities equivalent to those carried out by such a credit institution or financial institution and that is registered in the commercial register or a comparable register of a country other than the one from which the company is actually managed and administered, and
 - b) that is not affiliated with a regulated group of credit or financial institutions.

(23) ¹For the purposes of this Act, a person acting as an intermediary in the trade of works of art is someone who commercially acts as an intermediary for purchase agreements for works of art, including as an auctioneer or gallery owner. ²For the purposes of this Act, a person storing works of art is someone who commercially stores works of art. ³It is not relevant on whose behalf or on whose account the activity defined in sentences 1 or 2 is performed.

(24) ¹For the purposes of this Act, financial company is a company whose principal activity consists of

1. acquiring, holding or disposing of equity investments,
2. purchasing monetary receivables with a financing function,
3. trading in financial instruments for its own account,
4. investment intermediaries as defined in section 34f (1) sentence 1 of the Industrial Code

(*Gewerbeordnung*) and fee-based investment advisers as defined in section 34h (1) sentence 1 of the Industrial Code, unless the intermediation of advice relates solely to investments that are distributed or issued by obliged entities under this Act,

5. advising companies on their capital structure, their industrial strategy and associated issues and, in the event of corporate mergers and acquisitions, advising those enterprises and tendering services, or
6. arranging loans between credit institutions (money-broking business).

²Holding companies that only hold interests in companies outside the credit institution, financial institution and insurance sector and that are not commercially active other than in respect of the functions involved in managing the investment holding are not financial companies for the purposes of this Act.

(25) Parent company for the purposes of this Act is a company to which at least one other company as defined in subsection (16) nos. 2 to 4 is subordinate, and that is not itself subordinate to any other company.

Section 2 Obligated entities, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) For the purposes of this Act, obliged entities mean the following institutions and persons in the exercise of their business or profession:

1. credit institutions as defined in section 1 (1) of the Banking Act (*Kreditwesengesetz*), with the exception of the institutions and companies specified in section 2 (1) nos. 3 to 8 of the Banking Act, and establishments and branches located in Germany of credit institutions whose registered office is situated outside Germany,
2. financial services institutions as defined in section 1 (1a) of the Banking Act, with the exception of the institutions and companies specified in section 2 (6), sentence 1 nos. 3 to 10 and 12 and (10) of the Banking Act and German branches and branch offices of financial services institutions whose registered office is situated outside Germany,
3. payment institutions and electronic money institutions as defined in section 1 (3) of the Payment Services Supervision Act and German branches and branch offices of comparable institutions whose registered office is situated outside Germany,
4. agents as defined in section 1 (9) of the Payment Services Supervision Act and electronic money agents as defined in section 1 (10) of the Payment Services Supervision Act, as well as payment institutions and electronic money institutions whose registered office is in another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area that are established in Germany via agents as defined in section 1 (9) of the Payment Services Supervision Act or via electronic money agents as defined in section 1 (10) of the Payment Services Supervision Act,
5. independent business persons who distribute or redeem the electronic money of a credit institution as defined in section 1 (2) sentence 1 no. 2 of the Payment Services Supervision Act,
6. financial companies and establishments and branches and undertakings located in Germany of financial companies whose registered office is situated outside Germany, insofar as they do not already fall under numbers 1 to 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 or 13,
7. insurance undertakings as defined in Article 13 no. 1 of Directive 2009/138/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of Insurance and Reinsurance (Solvency II) (OJ L 335 of 17 December 2009, page 1) and establishments located in Germany of such undertakings whose registered office is situated outside Germany, insofar as they
 - a) offer life insurance activities covered by this directive,
 - b) offer accident insurance with premium refund or
 - c) grant money loans as defined in section 1 (1) sentence 2 no. 2 of the Banking Act.
 - d) offer capital redemption products,
8. insurance intermediaries as defined in section 59 of the Insurance Contract Act (*Versicherungsvertragsgesetz*), insofar as they broker the activities, transactions, products or services covered by no. 7, with the exception of the insurance intermediaries operating under section 34d (6) or

- (7) no. 1 of the Industrial Code, and establishments located in Germany of such insurance intermediaries whose registered office is situated outside Germany,
9. asset management companies as defined in section 17 (1) of the Investment Code (*Kapitalanlagegesetzbuch*), establishments located in Germany of EU management companies and of foreign AIF management companies, and foreign AIF management companies for which the Federal Republic of Germany is the member state of reference and which are subject to supervision by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority under section 57 (1) sentence 3 of the Investment Code,
 10. lawyers, legal advisors who are members of a bar association, patent attorneys and notaries, insofar as they
 - a) are involved in planning or carrying out the following activities for their clients:
 - aa) buying and selling of real estate or business entities;
 - bb) managing money, securities or other assets;
 - cc) opening or managing bank, savings or securities accounts;
 - dd) organising contributions necessary for the creation, operation or management of companies;
 - ee) creating, operating or managing trusts, companies or similar structures;
 - b) carry out financial or real estate transactions on behalf of and for the account of their clients,
 - c) advise clients with regard to their capital structure, industrial strategy or related issues,
 - d) provide advisory or other services in connection with mergers and acquisitions, or
 - e) provide advice on tax matters as a business or professional activity,
 11. legal advisors who are not members of a bar association and persons registered under section 10 of the Legal Services Act (*Rechtsdienstleistungsgesetz*), insofar as they perform activities as defined in no. 10 (a) to (d), except for the performance of collection services as defined in section 2 (2) sentence 1 of the Legal Services Act,
 12. public auditors, sworn auditors, tax advisers, tax agents and the associations referred to in section 4 no. 11 of the Tax Advisory Act (*Steuerberatungsgesetz*)
 13. service providers for companies and for trust assets or trustees that do not belong to the professions listed under nos. 10 to 12, whenever they provide one of the following services for third parties:
 - a) formation of a legal person or partnership,
 - b) acting as a director or manager of a legal person or partnership, acting as a partner of a partnership or acting in a similar position,
 - c) providing a registered office, a business, administrative or correspondence address, and other related services for a legal person, a partnership or a legal arrangement as defined in section 3 (3),
 - d) acting as a trustee of a legal arrangement as defined in section 3 (3),
 - e) acting as a nominee shareholder for another person other than a company listed on an organised market as defined in section 2 (11) of the Securities Trading Act (*Wertpapierhandelsgesetz*) that is subject to transparency requirements with regard to voting rights consistent with Community law, or subject to equivalent international standards,
 - f) arranging for another person to perform the functions described in b), d) and e) above;
 14. estate agents,
 15. organisers and brokers of games of chance unless they are
 - a) operators of gambling machines within the meaning of section 33c of the Industrial Code,
 - b) clubs that carry on the business of a totalisator within the meaning of section 1 of the Race Betting and Lottery Act (*Rennwett- und Lotteriegesetz*),
 - c) lotteries that are not held on the internet and for which the organisers and brokers hold a state-issued license from the respective competent authority in Germany,

d) social lotteries and

16. traders in goods, persons acting as intermediaries in the trade of works of art and persons storing works of art, where this storage is carried out by free ports.

(2) ¹The Federal Ministry of Finance may, by means of a statutory order not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, exempt from the scope of this Act obliged entities under subsection (1) nos. 1 to 9 and 16 which engage in financial activities that do not qualify as money remittance within the meaning of section 1 (1) sentence 2 no. 6 of the Payment Services Supervision Act only on an occasional or very limited basis and represent a low risk of money laundering and terrorist financing if

1. the financial activity is limited to individual transactions not exceeding the amount of €1,000 in absolute terms per customer and individual transaction,
2. the total turnover of the financial activity does not exceed 5 per cent of the total annual turnover of the obliged entity in question,
3. the financial activity is merely an ancillary activity related to the main activity pursued and
4. the financial activity is only pursued for customers of the main activity, and not for the general public.

²In this case, it must notify the European Commission in a timely manner.

(3) ¹For courts that conduct public auctions, the identification and notification obligations referred to in parts 3, 5 and 6 and the obligation to cooperate with the Financial Intelligence Unit apply, with the necessary modifications, to compulsory auctions, by way of compulsory enforcement, of real property, of ships recorded in the shipping register, of ships under construction that are recorded or can be recorded in the shipping register, and aircraft, insofar as transactions with cash payments of €10,000 or more are carried out. ²The purchaser is to be identified immediately after acceptance of the successful bid, but at the latest when the cash bid is deposited; it is not necessary to elicit the place of birth and nationality of natural persons or the names of all members of the representative body or of all legal representatives of partnerships and legal persons.

(4) ¹For authorities and public corporations and institutions that conduct public auctions, the identification and notification obligations referred to in parts 3, 5 and 6 and the obligation to cooperate with the Financial Intelligence Unit apply, with the necessary modifications, insofar as transactions with cash payments of €10,000 or more are carried out. ²Sentence 1 does not apply in cases where seized assets are realised in the course of compulsory enforcement. ³The purchaser is to be identified after acceptance of the successful bid, but at the latest when the cash bid is deposited. ⁴Authorities and public corporations and institutions subject to an obligation under sentence 1 may engage third parties to fulfil their obligations under sentence 1.

Section 3 Beneficial owner

(1) ¹For the purposes of this Act, beneficial owner means

1. the natural person who ultimately owns or controls the contracting party, or
2. the natural person at whose instruction a transaction is ultimately carried out or a business relationship is ultimately established.

²In particular, beneficial owners include the natural persons listed in subsections (2) to (4).

(2) ¹In cases of legal persons other than foundations with legal capacity and of other corporate entities that are not listed on an organised market as defined in section 2 (11) of the Securities Trading Act and that are not subject to transparency requirements with regard to voting rights consistent with Community laws or to equivalent international standards, beneficial owners include any natural person who, directly or indirectly,

1. holds more than 25 per cent of the capital,
2. controls more than 25 per cent of the voting rights or
3. exercises control in a comparable manner.

²In particular, indirect control is deemed to exist when the corresponding ownership interests are held by one or more associations as defined in section 20 (1) that are controlled by a natural person. ³Control is deemed to exist in particular if the natural person is able to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence on the

association as defined in section 20 (1). ⁴In cases of controlling influence, section 290 (2) to (4) of the Commercial Code applies, with the necessary modifications. ⁵If, even after extensive investigations and in the absence of facts as specified in section 43 (1), the association as defined in section 20 (1) subject to the notification requirement is unable to identify any beneficial owner as defined in subsection (1) or sentences 1 to 4, the beneficial owner is deemed to be the legal representative, shareholder-manager or partner of the contracting party.

(3) In the case of foundations with legal capacity and legal arrangements used to manage or distribute trust assets or through which third parties are instructed with such management or distribution, or comparable legal constructs, beneficial owners include:

1. any natural person acting as a settlor, trustee or protector, if any,
2. any natural person who is a member of the board of the foundation,
3. any natural person designated as a beneficiary,
4. to the extent that the natural person intended to be the beneficiary of the managed assets is yet to be designated, the group of natural persons for whose benefit the assets are intended to be managed or distributed,
5. any natural person who otherwise directly or indirectly exercises a controlling influence on the management of assets or property or the distribution of income, and
6. any natural person who can directly or indirectly exercise a controlling influence on an association and who is a member of the board of the foundation or has been designated as a beneficiary of the foundation.

(4) ¹In cases of trading on instruction, the person at whose instruction the transaction is carried out is deemed to be a beneficial owner. ²Insofar as contracting parties act as trustees, they are also deemed to be trading on instruction.

Part 2 Risk management

Section 4 Risk management

(1) In order to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, the obliged entities must have in place effective risk management systems that are appropriate for the nature and size of their business.

(2) Risk management encompasses a risk analysis under section 5 as well as internal controls and safeguards under section 6.

(3) ¹A member of the management is to be appointed to be responsible for risk management and compliance with provisions under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law under this and other Acts as well as with statutory instruments adopted on the basis of this and other Acts. ²Risk analysis and internal controls and safeguards must be approved by this member of the management.

(4) Obligated entities as defined in section 2 (1) no. 14 must have in place an effective risk management system, including group-wide procedures:

1. if they act as an intermediary for purchase agreements and
2. if they act as an intermediary for rental or lease agreements with a monthly rental or lease payment of €10,000 or more.

(5) Obligated entities as defined in section 2 (1) no. 16 must have in place an effective risk management system, including group-wide procedures:

1. if they act as a trader in goods in the following transactions:
 - a) transactions relating to works of art with a value of €10,000 or more,
 - b) transactions relating to valuables as defined in section 1 (10) sentence 2 no. 1 in which they make or

- receive cash payments of €2,000 or more themselves or using third parties, or
- c) transactions relating to other goods in which they make or receive cash payments of €10,000 or more themselves or using third parties, and
2. if they act as intermediaries in the trade of works of art and persons storing works of art in transactions of €10,000 or more.

Section 5 Risk analysis

(1) ¹The obliged entities are required to determine and evaluate the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing associated with the business activities they engage in. ²They are required to pay particular attention to the risk factors specified in annexes 1 and 2 and to the information that is made available on the basis of the national risk assessment. ³The extent of the risk analysis depends on the nature and size of the business of the obliged entity.

(2) The obliged entities are required to

1. document the risk analysis,
2. regularly review and, as appropriate, update the risk analysis and
3. make the most recent version of their risk analysis available to the supervisory authority upon request.

(3) In cases where the obliged entity is the parent company of a group, subsections (1) and (2) apply to the whole group.

(4) The supervisory authority may, at the request of an obliged entity, release the obliged entity from the obligation to document its risk analysis if the obliged entity can demonstrate that the specific risks inherent in the respective sector are clear and understood.

Section 6 Internal controls and safeguards

(1) ¹Obliged entities are required to implement appropriate business- and customer-related internal controls and safeguards in the form of principles, procedures and controls in order to manage and mitigate the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing. ²Such measures are appropriate if they correspond to the risk situation of the obliged entity and cover it sufficiently. ³The obliged entities are required to monitor the functionality of the internal controls and safeguards and update them where necessary.

(2) In particular, internal controls and safeguards include:

1. the development of internal principles, procedures and controls in relation to
 - a) dealing with risks under subsection (1),
 - b) the customer due diligence requirements under sections 10 to 17
 - c) compliance with the reporting obligation under section 43 (1)
 - d) recording of information and retention of documents under section 8 and
 - e) compliance with other provisions under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law,
2. appointing a money laundering officer and a deputy under section 7,
3. in cases of obliged entities that are parent companies of a group, the establishment of group-wide procedures under section 9,
4. the development and updating of appropriate measures to prevent the abuse of new products and technologies for committing money laundering and terrorist financing or for the purpose of promoting the anonymity of business relationships or transactions,
5. the reliability screening of employees by appropriate means, in particular via systems of the obliged entity for controlling and appraising the staff,

6. initial and ongoing training of employees with regard to the typologies and current methods of money laundering and terrorist financing and on the provisions and obligations relevant in this regard, including rules for data protection, and
7. reviewing the above-mentioned principles and procedures in an independent inspection where such a review is appropriate given the nature and size of the business.

(3) If an obliged entity under section 2 (1) nos. 10 to 14 and 16 performs their professional activities as an employee of a company, the obligations under subsections (1) and (2) fall to this company.

(4) ¹In addition to the measures set out in subsection (2), obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 15 are required to operate data processing systems that enable them to identify both business relationships and individual transactions in gambling operations and via a gambling account under section 16 that are to be regarded as suspicious or unusual given publicly available information on, or corporate experience of, the methods of money laundering and terrorist financing. ²They are required to update these data processing systems. ³The supervisory authority may specify criteria on the basis of which, if met, the obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 15 may be exempt from the obligation to use the data processing systems under sentence 1.

(5) The obliged entities are required to make arrangements appropriate to their nature and size to enable their employees and persons in a comparable position to report contraventions of provisions under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law to appropriate bodies while ensuring that their identity remains confidential.

(6) ¹The obliged entities are required to make arrangements to ensure they are in a position, if asked by the German Financial Intelligence Unit (*Zentralstelle für Finanztransaktionsuntersuchungen*) or by other competent authorities, to provide information as to whether they maintained a business relationship with certain persons during a period of five years prior to the enquiry, and what the nature of that relationship was. ²They are required to ensure that the information is transmitted safely and confidentially to the institution making the enquiry. ³Obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 and 12 may refuse to provide information if the enquiry refers to information they received in the course of providing legal advice or legal representation. ⁴The obligation to provide information continues to exist if the obliged entity knows that the legal advice or legal representation was or is being used for the purpose of money laundering or terrorist financing.

(7) ¹The obliged entities may, on the basis of contractual agreement, engage third parties to implement internal controls and safeguards if they notify the supervisory authority of this in advance. ²The supervisory authority may prohibit the engagement of a third party if

1. the third party does not provide an assurance that the controls and safeguards will be implemented properly,
2. the management capabilities of the obliged entity would be adversely affected or
3. supervision by the supervisory authority would be adversely affected.

³In their notification, the obliged entities are required to demonstrate that the criteria for prohibiting the engagement under sentence 2 are not fulfilled. ⁴The ultimate responsibility for implementing the controls and safeguards continues to lie with the obliged entities.

(8) In individual cases, the supervisory authority may issue appropriate and necessary orders to an obliged entity to implement the necessary internal controls and safeguards.

(9) The supervisory authority may order that the provisions of subsections (1) to (6) are to be applied, in a manner appropriate to the level of risk, to individual obliged entities or groups of obliged entities on account of the kind of transactions they engage in or of the size of their business, in consideration of the risks with regard to money laundering and terrorist financing.

Section 7 Money laundering officer

(1) ¹Obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3, 6, 7, 9 and 15 are required to appoint a money laundering officer at senior management level and a deputy. ²The money laundering officer is responsible for compliance with the provisions under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law; this does not affect the responsibility of the management. ³The money laundering officer is directly subordinate to the top management level.

(2) The supervisory authority may exempt an obliged entity from the obligation to appoint a money laundering officer if it is guaranteed that

1. there is no risk of information loss or deficits on account of a separation of duties in the company structure and
2. other provisions are made, after a risk-based evaluation, to prevent business relationships and transactions related to money laundering and terrorist financing.

(3) ¹The supervisory authority may order that obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 4, 5, 8, 10 to 14 and 16 are required to appoint a money laundering officer if it deems such an appointment appropriate. ²In the case of obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 16, the order should be issued if the main activity of the obliged entity consists in trading in valuables.

(4) ¹The obliged entities are required to give prior notification to the supervisory authority of the appointment or dismissal of the money laundering officer or their deputy. ²The appointment of the money laundering officer or the deputy must be revoked on the instruction of the supervisory authority if the appointee does not fulfil the requirements with regard to qualification or reliability.

(5) ¹The money laundering officer must carry out their function in Germany. ²They must be the point of contact regarding compliance with the relevant provisions for the law enforcement agencies, for the authorities responsible for the detection, prevention and elimination of threats, for the German Financial Intelligence Unit and for the supervisory authority. ³The money laundering officer must be granted sufficient powers and the means necessary to carry out their function properly. ⁴In particular, they must have or be given unrestricted access to all information, data, records and systems which could be of importance in the performance of their functions. ⁵The money laundering officer reports directly to the top management level. ⁶If the money laundering officer intends to submit a report under section 43 (1) or is responding to a request for information from the German Financial Intelligence Unit under section 30 (3), they are not subject to the right of the top management level to issue instructions.

(6) The money laundering officer may use data and information solely for the purpose of performing their functions.

(7) ¹The money laundering officer and the deputy must not suffer any disadvantage in their employment as a result of the performance of their functions. ²The termination of their employment is inadmissible unless facts exist that entitle those responsible to terminate the employment for good cause without observing a notice period. ³Following the end of the appointment of the money laundering officer or deputy, a termination of their employment is inadmissible within a year of the appointment end date, unless those responsible are entitled to terminate the employment for good cause without observing a notice period.

Section 8 Record-keeping and retention requirement

(1) ¹The obliged entity is required to record and retain

1. data collected and information gathered in the fulfilment of its due diligence requirements
 - a) on the contracting parties, the parties to the contract governing the object of purchase as defined in section 11 (2) and, where applicable, on the persons representing the contracting parties or the parties to the contract governing the object of purchase, and on beneficial owners,
 - b) on business relationships and transactions, particularly proof of transaction documents insofar as they could be necessary for the investigation of transactions,
2. sufficient information about the implementation and the results of the risk evaluation under section 10 (2), section 14 (1) and section 15 (2) and about the suitability of the measures taken on the basis of these results,
3. the results of the examination under section 15 (5) no. 1 and
4. the reasons considered and a plausible explanation of the evaluation result for a matter in respect of the reporting obligation under section 43 (1).

²The records under sentence 1 no. 1 (a) include records about the measures taken to identify the beneficial owner and to document the ownership and control structure within the meaning of section 11 (52) sentence 1.

³In the case of persons deemed to be beneficial owners under section 3 (2) sentence 5, the measures taken to verify identity under section 11 (5) and any difficulties encountered during the verification process must be recorded.

(2) ¹To comply with the obligation under subsection (1) sentence 1 no. 1 (a), the type, number and issuing authority of the document presented for verification of identity are required to be recorded in the cases set forth in section 12 (1) sentence 1 no. 1. ²Where documents under section 12 (1) sentence 1 1 or 4 are presented for the verification of the identity of a natural person, or documentation under section 12 (2) is presented for the verification of the identity of a legal person, or where documents specified as a result of a statutory instrument under section 12 (3) are presented or used, the obliged entities have the right and the duty to make copies of these documents or documentation or to optically digitise them or, in the case of an on-site read-out under section 18a des Act on Identity Cards and Electronic Identification (*Personalausweisgesetz*), under section 78 (5) sentence 2 of the Residence Act (*Aufenthaltsgesetz*) or under section 13 of the eID Card Act (*eID-Karte-Gesetz*), the service and card identifier must be recorded, together with the fact that the data was imported by means of an on-site read-out. ³These qualify as a record within the meaning of sentence 1. ⁴The record-keeping and retention requirement under subsection (1) sentence 1 no. 1 (a) also covers records of video and audio made to comply with due diligence requirements under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law. ⁵If a repeat identification is dispensed with under section 3 (1), the name of the person to be identified and the fact that the person was identified on a previous occasion must be recorded. ⁶In the cases set out in section 12 (1) sentence 1 no. 2, instead of the type, number and issuing authority of the document presented for identification, the service and card identifier must be recorded, as well as the fact that verification was carried out by means of an electronic proof of identity. ⁷When the verification of identity is carried out by means of a qualified signature pursuant to section 12 (1) sentence 1 no. 3, the validation thereof must also be recorded. ⁸Where data and information are gathered by consulting electronically managed registers or directories under section 12 (2), a printout qualifies as a record of the data or information contained therein.

(3) ¹The records may also be stored digitally on a storage medium. ²The obliged entities must ensure that the stored data

1. is consistent with the data and information gathered,
2. is available for the duration of the retention period and
3. can be made readable within a reasonable period of time at any time.

(4) ¹The records and other evidence under subsections (1) to (3) are required to be retained for five years, unless other statutory provisions governing record-keeping and retention requirements stipulate a longer period. ²In all cases, the records and other evidence must be destroyed after no later than ten years. ³In the case under section 10 (3) sentence 1 no. 1, the retention period begins upon conclusion of the calendar year in which the business relationship is terminated. ⁴In all other cases, it begins upon conclusion of the calendar year in which the respective information was gathered.

(5) Where documents to be retained are required to be presented to a public agency, section 147 (5) of the Fiscal Code (*Abgabenordnung*) applies, with the necessary modifications, with regard to the readability of the documents.

Section 9 Group-wide requirements

(1) ¹Obliged entities that are parent companies of a group are required to conduct a risk analysis for all branches, establishments and group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 that are subject to obligations under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law. ²On the basis of this risk analysis, they must take the following measures on a group-wide basis:

1. the establishment of consistent internal controls and safeguards under section 6 (2),
2. appointment of a money laundering officer who is responsible for devising a group-wide strategy for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing and for the coordination and monitoring of its implementation,
3. the creation of procedures for the exchange of information within the group to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing and
4. the creation of precautions for the protection of personal data.

³They must ensure that the measures they have taken under sentence 2 nos. 1, 3 and 4 are effectively implemented by their branches, establishments and group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4, insofar as they are subject to obligations under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law and are controlled by the parent company.

(2) Obligated entities that are parent companies of a group must ensure that establishments and group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 that are majority owned and located in another member state of the European Union under whose laws they are subject to anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing obligations comply with the applicable national legislation in that member state transposing Directive (EU) 2015/849.

(3) ¹Obligated entities that are parent companies of a group must ensure that branches and group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 that are majority owned and located in a third country in which the minimum requirements for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing are less rigorous than the requirements applying to companies whose registered office is in Germany must with the requirements under the present Act if permitted by the laws of the third country. ²Insofar as implementation of the measures referred to in section 1 sentence 2 nos. 1, 3 and 4 is not permitted under the laws of the third country, the parent company must

1. ensure that their branches and group companies referred to in sentence 1 that are majority owned take additional measures to effectively counter the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing, and
2. inform the competent supervisory authority under section 50 of the measures taken.

³If the measures taken are insufficient, the competent supervisory authority under section 50 is required to direct the parent companies to ensure that the branches and group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 referred to in sentence 1 do not initiate or continue any business relationship or carry out any transactions in that third country.

(4) Subsections (1) to (3) apply to obliged entities, with the necessary modifications,

1. that are group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4, insofar as at least one other company under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 is subordinate to and controlled by them, and
2. whose parent company is not required to take group-wide measures either under subsection (1) or under the law of the country in which it is located.

(5) ¹Obligated entities that are group companies under section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 of a parent company within the meaning of subsection (1) must implement the measures referred to in subsection (1) sentence 2 nos. 1, 3 and 4. ²All other obliged entities in the group must implement the group-wide requirements applicable to them, which must include in particular procedures for the exchange of information within the group to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as precautions for the protection of personal data. ³The obligations under sentences 1 and 2 apply without prejudice to the obliged entities' own statutory obligation to comply with other provisions of anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law.

Part 3 Customer due diligence requirements

Section 10 General due diligence requirements

(1) The general due diligence requirements are:

1. identifying the contracting party and, where applicable, the person acting on their behalf in accordance with section 11 (4) and with section 12 (1) and (2) and checking whether the person acting on behalf of the contracting party is entitled to do so,
2. clarifying whether the contracting party is acting on behalf of a beneficial owner and, if so, identifying the beneficial owner in accordance with section 11 (5); if the contracting party is not a natural person, this includes an obligation to take adequate measures to understand the ownership and control structure of the contracting party,
3. obtaining and evaluating information on the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship where this is not already clear beyond doubt from the business relationship in the individual case,

4. establishing with appropriate, risk-oriented procedures whether the contracting party or the beneficial owner is a politically exposed person, a family member or a person known to be a close associate, and
5. continuously monitoring the business relationship, including the transactions carried out in the course of the business relationship, in order to ensure that they are consistent with
 - a) the documents and information available to the obliged entities about the contracting party and, where applicable, the beneficial owner, about their business activity and customer profile and
 - b) where necessary, the information available to the obliged entity about the source of wealth;
 in the course of their continuous monitoring activities, obliged entities are to ensure that the relevant documents, data or information are updated at appropriate intervals, taking into account the respective risk.

(2) ¹The specific extent of the measures taken under subsection (1) nos. 2 to 5 must be in accordance with the respective risk of money laundering or terrorist financing, particularly in relation to the contracting party, the business relationship or transaction. ²The obliged entities must pay particular attention in this context to the risk factors specified in Annexes 1 and 2. ³In addition, in evaluating the risks the obliged entities must take into account at least

1. the purpose of the account or the business relationship,
2. the level of assets deposited by the customer or the size of the transactions carried out and
3. the regularity or the duration of the business relationship.

⁴Obliged entities must demonstrate to the competent authorities upon request that the extent of the measures they have adopted is adequate based on the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing.

(3) The obliged entities are to fulfil the general due diligence requirements:

1. when establishing a business relationship,
2. when transactions are carried out outside of an existing business relationship in cases of
 - a) transfers of funds within the meaning of Article 3 no. 9 of Regulation (EU) 2015/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on information accompanying transfers of funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1781/2006 (OJ L 141 of 5 June 2015, page 1) when the transfer of funds involves an amount of €1,000 or more,
 - b) other transactions being carried out with a value of €15,000 or more,
3. regardless of any derogation, exemption or threshold set forth in this or other Acts, when facts exist that indicate that
 - a) the property connected to a transaction or business relationship is the object of money laundering or
 - b) the property is associated with terrorist financing,
4. when there is doubt as to the veracity of the information collected under provisions of this Act in relation to the identity of the contracting party, to the identity of a person acting on behalf of the contracting party or to the identity of the beneficial owner.

(3a) ¹The obliged entities must fulfil the general due diligence requirements for all new customers. ²In cases of existing business relationships, they must fulfil the general due diligence requirements at an appropriate time on a risk-sensitive basis, particularly

1. when the relevant circumstances of a customer change,
2. when the obliged entity has a legal duty to contact the customer in the course of the relevant calendar year for the purpose of reviewing any relevant information relating to the beneficial owner, or
3. when the obliged entity has a duty to do so under Council Directive 2011/16/EU of 15 February 2011 on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Directive 77/799/EEC (OJ L 64 of 11 March 2011, page 1).

(4) Obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 3 to 5 must fulfil the general due diligence requirements under subsection (1) nos. 1 and 2 when, in providing payment services, they accept cash as set out in section 1

sentence 2 of the Payment Services Supervision Act.

(5) ¹Obligated entities under section 2 (1) no. 15 must fulfil the general due diligence requirements in the case of transactions when a player wins or bets amounts of €2,000 or more unless the game of chance is offered or brokered online. ²The identification requirements may also be met by identifying the player upon entry to the casino or other physical gambling premises, provided the obliged entity also ensures that each transaction of €2,000 or more, including the purchase or exchange of gambling chips, can be attributed to the player in question.

(6) Obligated entities under section 2 (1) no. 14 must fulfil the general due diligence requirements:

1. if they act as an intermediary for purchase agreements and
2. if they act as an intermediary for rental or lease agreements in the case of transactions with a monthly rental or lease payment of €10,000 or more.

(6a) Obligated entities under section 2 (1) no. 16 must fulfil the general due diligence requirements:

1. if they act as a trader in goods in the following transactions:
 - a) transactions relating to works of art with a value of €10,000 or more,
 - b) transactions relating to valuables as defined in section 1 (10) sentence 2 no. 1 in which they make or receive cash payments of €2,000 or more themselves or using third parties, or
 - c) transactions relating to other goods in which they make or receive cash payments of €10,000 or more themselves or using third parties, and
2. if they act as intermediaries in the trade of works of art and persons storing works of art in transactions of €10,000 or more.

(7) ¹Section 25i (1) of the Banking Act applies to obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 4 and 5 if they are involved in issuing electronic money, with the limitation that only the requirements under subsection (1) nos. 1 and 4 are required to be fulfilled. ²Section 25i (2) and (4) of the Banking Act applies, with the necessary modifications.

(8) Insurance intermediaries under section 2 (1) no. 8 that collect premiums on behalf of an insurance undertaking under section 2 (1) no. 7 are required to notify the insurance undertaking whenever premiums are paid in cash and the amount exceeds €15,000 in one calendar year.

(8a) Insofar as an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 10 acts as a general counsel or patent counsel or an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 12 acts as a tax manager for a company that is itself an obliged entity under section 2 (1), that company is responsible for the obligations under subsection (1).

(9) ¹If the obliged entity is unable to fulfil the general due diligence requirements under subsection (1) nos. 1 to 4, the business relationship must not be established or continued and no transactions may be executed. ²Where a business relationship already exists, the obliged entity is required to terminate or otherwise end it regardless of any other statutory provisions or contractual terms. ³Sentences 1 and 2 above do not apply to obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 and 12 if legal advice or legal representation activities are to be carried out, unless the obliged entity knows that the legal advice or legal representation was or is being used for the purpose of money laundering or terrorist financing. ⁴For as long as the contracting party does not fulfil its obligation under section 11 (5a) sentence 1 or an association whose registered office is outside Germany does not fulfil its notification obligation under section 20 (1) sentences 2 and 3, the notary must refuse to carry out the notarialisation; section 15 (2) of the Federal Code on Notaries applies in this respect, with the necessary modifications.

Section 11 Identification

(1) ¹Obligated entities are required to identify contracting parties and, if applicable, persons acting on their behalf and beneficial owners, before establishing a business relationship or executing a transaction. ²The identification may also be completed without undue delay while the business relationship is being established if this is necessary in order to avoid interrupting the normal course of business and there is a low risk of money laundering or terrorist financing.

(2) ¹By way of derogation from subsection (1), obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 14 are required to identify the parties to a contract governing the object of purchase and, if applicable, persons acting on their behalf and beneficial owners, as soon as the intermediary's contracting party expresses a serious interest in the execution of the real estate sales contract and the parties to the sales contract are sufficiently definitive. ²If obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 14 act for both parties to the contract governing the object of purchase, each obliged entity is only required to identify the party to the contract for which it is acting.

(3) ¹Identification may be omitted if the obliged entity has already identified the person to be identified on an earlier occasion in the fulfilment of its due diligence requirements and recorded the information obtained. ²If external circumstances leave the obliged entity no choice but to doubt that the information obtained during the earlier identification is still correct, the obliged entity is required to carry out a new identification.

(4) In the identification, the obliged entity is to collect the following information:

1. in the case of a natural person:

- a) their first name and surname,
- b) their place of birth,
- c) date of birth,
- d) their nationality and
- e) a residential address or, if no fixed abode and legal residence in the European Union exists and identity is being verified in the course of concluding a basic payment account contract within the meaning of section 38 of the Payment Accounts Act (*Zahlungskontengesetz*), the postal address under which the contracting party and the person dealing with the obliged entity can be reached;

2. in the case of a legal person or a partnership:

- a) the registered name, name or designation,
- b) the legal form,
- c) the commercial register number if available,
- d) the address of the registered office or head office and
- e) the names of the members of its representative body or the names of its legal representatives and, if a member of its representative body or the legal representative is a legal person, the data listed under letters (a) to (d) for this legal person.

(5) ¹By way of derogation from subsection (4), to determine the identity of a beneficial owner the obliged entity is required at least to establish their name and, if appropriate in view of the risk of money laundering or terrorist financing that exists in the particular case, collect further identifying information. ²If a new business relationship with an association under section 20 or a legal arrangement under section 21 is being established, the obliged entity must obtain proof of registration under section 20 (1) or section 21, or an extract of the data available via the transparency register. ³Details of the beneficial owner's date and place of birth and address may be collected irrespective of ascertained risk. ⁴The obliged entity is required to satisfy itself of the veracity of the information gathered for the identification by taking risk-adequate measures; in doing so, the obliged entity must not rely exclusively on the information from the transparency register. ⁵If this relates to a person who is deemed to be a beneficial owner under section 3 (2) sentence 5, the obliged entity must take appropriate measures to verify the identity of this person. ⁶If the beneficial owners in the case of trusts or other legal arrangements under section 21 are designated by particular characteristics or class, the obliged entity must obtain sufficient information about the beneficial owner, to allow it to establish the identity of the beneficial owner at the time the transaction is carried out or the beneficial owner exercises its rights.

(5a) ¹Insofar as the contracting party in an acquisition transaction under section 1 of the Real Estate Transfer Tax Act (*Grunderwerbsteuergesetz*) is acting for a legal structure within the meaning of section 3 (2) or (3), the notarising notary must, before carrying out the notarisation, verify the consistency of the identity of the beneficial owner on the basis of documentation of the ownership and control structure to be submitted in text form by the relevant contracting party. ²The documentation must be provided to the Financial Intelligence Unit and the law enforcement agencies on request.

(6) ¹The contracting party of an obliged entity is required to provide the obliged entity with the information and

documents necessary for the identification.² If any changes arise in the course of the business relationship, the contracting party is required to notify the obliged entity of these changes without delay.³ The contracting party is required to disclose to the obliged entity whether it intends to establish, continue or conduct the business relationship or the transaction on behalf of a beneficial owner.⁴ The disclosure to the obliged entity must also include providing evidence of the beneficial owner's identity.⁵ Sentences 1 to 4 apply, with the necessary modifications, to the parties to the contract governing the object of purchase within the meaning of subsection (2) who are not contracting parties of the obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 14.

(7) Administrators of trusts and other legal arrangements under section 21 must disclose their status to the obliged entity and provide it with the information under section 21 (1) and (2) without undue delay if they initiate a business relationship in this position or carry out a transaction in an amount higher than the thresholds referred to in section 10 (3) no. 2, (5), (6) or (6a).

Section 11a Processing of personal data by obliged entities

(1) Obligated entities under section 2 may only process personal data to the extent necessary for the purposes of the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing on the basis of this Act.

(2) Insofar as an obliged entity under section 2 subject to the provisions of this Act transmits personal data for purposes defined in subsection (1) to the competent supervisory authorities or the persons and institutions used by the competent supervisory authorities in the performance of their functions, or to the Financial Intelligence Unit, the obligation to inform the data subject under Article 13(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and the data subject's right to obtain information under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 do not apply.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) apply, with the necessary modifications, to third parties within the meaning of section 17 used by an obliged entity to fulfil the general due diligence requirements under 10 (1) nos. 1 to 4.

Section 12 Identity verification, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹In the cases set out in section 10 (1) no. 1, the verification of the identity of natural persons must be carried out on the basis of

1. a valid official identity document which includes a photograph of the holder and satisfies the passport and identification requirements in Germany, in particular a German passport, identity card or substitute of a passport or identity card, or a passport, identity card or substitute of a passport or identity card recognised or accepted under German provisions for foreign nationals,
2. an electronic proof of identity under section 18 of the Act on Identity Cards and Electronic Identification, section 12 of the eID Card Act or section 78 (5) of the Residence Act,
3. a qualified electronic signature under Article 3 No. 12 of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (OJ L 257 of 28 August 2014, page 73),
4. a notified electronic identification scheme under Article 8(2)(c) in conjunction with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 or
5. documents under section 1 (1) of the Regulation determining documents admissible for the identification of a person to be identified under the Money Laundering Act for the purpose of opening of a payment account (*Verordnung über die Bestimmung von Dokumenten, die zur Überprüfung der Identität einer nach dem Geldwäschegesetz zu identifizierenden Person zum Zwecke des Abschlusses eines Zahlungskontovertrags zugelassen werden*).

²When identity is required to be verified by means of a qualified electronic signature under sentence 1 no. 3, the obliged entity is required to validate the qualified electronic signature in accordance with Article 32(1) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014. ³In such a case, the obliged entity is also required to ensure that a transaction is executed directly from a payment account within the meaning of section 1 (3) of the Payment Services Supervision Act which is held in the name of the contracting party, with an obliged entity under section 2 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 or no. 3 or with a credit institution located in

1. another member state of the European Union,

2. a signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or
3. a third country in which the credit institution is subject to due diligence and record-keeping requirements equivalent to the due diligence and record-keeping requirements laid out in Directive (EU) 2015/849 and whose observance is supervised in a manner consistent with Chapter IV Section 2 of Directive (EU) 2015/849.

(2) In the cases set out in section 10 (1) no. 1, verification of the identity of legal persons or partnerships must be carried out by means of

1. an extract from the commercial register or register of cooperative societies or a comparable official register or directory,
2. formation documents or equivalent substantiating documents or
3. a documented inspection by the obliged entity itself of the data in the register or directory.

(3) The Federal Ministry of Finance may, in consultation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, by means of a regulation not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, designate further documents as appropriate for verifying identity.

Section 13 Identity verification procedures, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) Obligated entities must verify the identity of natural persons by one of the following procedures:

1. appropriate examination of the document presented physically or
2. another procedure suitable for verifying identity under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law and having a security level equivalent to the procedure set out in no. 1.

(2) The Federal Ministry of Finance may, in consultation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*

1. add more detail or further requirements to the procedure set out in subsection (1) or to the obliged entities using this procedure and
2. define procedures that are appropriate for identification under anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing law in accordance with subsection (1) no. 2.

Section 14 Simplified due diligence requirements, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹Obligated entities that establish that, taking into account the risk factors specified in annexes 1 and 2, certain areas present only a small risk of money laundering or terrorist financing, particularly with regard to customers, transactions and services or products, are only required to fulfil simplified due diligence requirements. ²Before applying simplified due diligence requirements, obliged entities must ascertain that the business relationship or transaction actually entails a lower risk of money laundering or terrorist financing. ³For the demonstration of adequacy, section 10 (2) sentence 4 applies, with the necessary modifications.

(2) ¹Where simplified due diligence requirements may be applied, obliged entities may

1. reduce the extent of the measures to be taken to fulfil general due diligence requirements to an appropriate extent and
2. in particular, by way of derogation from sections 12 and 13, carry out the verification of identity on the basis of other documents, data or information which originate from a credible and independent source and are suitable for the purpose of verification.

²In each instance, the obliged entities must ensure the scrutiny of transactions and business relationships to an extent that enables them to recognise and report unusual or suspicious transactions.

(3) In cases where the obliged entity is not in a position to fulfil the simplified due diligence requirements, section 10 (9) applies, with the necessary modifications.

(4) ¹The Federal Ministry of Finance may, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, in consultation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, designate types of cases which can present a lower risk of money laundering or terrorist financing, particularly with regard to customers, products, services, transactions or delivery channels, and in which the obliged entities are only required to fulfil simplified due diligence requirements in relation to customers, under the conditions laid out in subsection (1). ²The risk factors specified in annexes 1 and 2 must be taken into account in such a decision.

(5) Directive (EU) 2015/847 does not apply to domestic transfers of funds to a payment account of a beneficiary to which only payments for the delivery of goods or services can be made, if

1. the beneficiary's payment service provider is subject to the requirements of this Act,
2. the beneficiary's payment service provider is able, using a unique transaction reference number, to trace the transfer of funds via the beneficiary back to the person who concluded an agreement with the beneficiary about the delivery of goods or services, and
3. the amount transferred does not exceed €1,000.

Section 15 Enhanced due diligence requirements, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) The enhanced due diligence requirements must be fulfilled in addition to the general due diligence requirements.

(2) ¹Obliged entities are required to fulfil enhanced due diligence requirements if they find out, through a risk analysis or by taking into account the risk factors specified in annexes 1 and 2 in an individual case, that a higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing may arise. ²The obliged entities must determine the specific extent of measures to be taken in accordance with the respective higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing. ³For the demonstration of adequacy, section 10 (2) sentence 4 applies, with the necessary modifications.

(3) A higher risk arises in particular

1. if a contracting party of the obliged entity or a beneficial owner is a politically exposed person, a family member or a person known to be a close associate,
2. in the case of a business relationship or transaction in which a high-risk third country identified by the European Commission in accordance with Article 9(2) of Directive (EU) 2015/849, as amended by point (5) of Article 1 of Directive (EU) 2018/843, or a natural or legal person resident in that third country is involved; this does not apply to branches of obliged entities under Article 2(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849, as amended by point (1) of Article 1 of Directive (EU) 2018/843, who are established in the European Union and to majority owned subsidiaries of these obliged entities that are located in a high-risk third country, provided that those branches and subsidiaries comply in full with the group-wide policies and procedures they are required by Article 45(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 to apply,
3. if the transaction, in relation to similar cases,
 - a) is particularly complex or unusually large,
 - b) is conducted in an unusual pattern or
 - c) has no apparent economic or lawful purpose, or
4. in cases where obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 are in cross-border correspondent relationships with third-country respondents or, if the obliged entities identify a heightened risk, with respondents from a country in the European Economic Area.

(4) ¹In one of the cases set out in subsections (2) and (3) no. 1, at least the following enhanced due diligence requirements must be fulfilled:

1. establishing or continuing a business relationship requires approval from a member of senior management,
2. adequate measures must be taken to establish the source of funds involved in the business relationship or the transaction and
3. enhanced, ongoing monitoring of the business relationship must be conducted.

²If, in the case of subsection (3) no. 1, the contracting party or the beneficial owner was only initially entrusted with a prominent public function during the course of the business relationship, or if the obliged entity gained knowledge of the fact that the contracting party or the beneficial owner held a prominent public function only after establishing the business relationship, the obliged entity is required to ensure that the relationship is only continued with the approval of a member of senior management. ³In the case of a formerly politically exposed person, the obliged entities are required to take account of the specific risk associated with politically exposed persons for at least twelve months after the person has left the public function and take appropriate and risk-adequate measures until it can be assumed that the risk no longer exists.

(5) In the case set out in subsection (3) no. 2, obliged entities must fulfil at least the following enhanced due diligence requirements:

1. they must obtain:
 - a) additional information on the contracting party and the beneficial owner,
 - b) additional information on the intended nature of the business relationship;
 - c) additional information about the source of assets and wealth of the contracting party,
 - d) information about the source of assets and wealth of the beneficial owner, with the exception of persons deemed to be beneficial owners under section 3 (2) sentence 5,
 - e) information on the reasons for the intended or performed transaction, and
 - f) information on the intended use of the assets that will be used in the transaction or business relationship, insofar as this is necessary to assess the risk of terrorist financing,
2. establishing or continuing a business relationship requires approval from a member of senior management and
3. in the case of a business relationship, they must conduct enhanced monitoring of the business relationship by
 - a) increasing the number and timing of controls applied, and
 - b) selecting patterns of transactions that need further examination.

(5a) ¹In the case described in subsection (3) no. 2, and in addition to the enhanced due diligence requirements referred to in subsection (5), the competent supervisory authorities may require one or more enhanced due diligence requirements to be fulfilled by the obliged entities, which may also consist of the following measures, on a risk-appropriate basis and in compliance with the European Union's international obligations:

1. reporting financial transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit,
2. limiting or prohibiting business relationships or transactions with natural or legal persons from high-risk third countries,
3. prohibiting obliged entities located in a high-risk third country from establishing subsidiaries, branches or representative offices in Germany,
4. prohibiting obliged entities from establishing or representative offices in a high-risk third country,
5. requiring increased examination of compliance with anti-money laundering requirements for branches and subsidiaries of obliged entities located in a high-risk third country
 - a) by the competent supervisory authority or
 - b) by an external auditor,
6. introducing enhanced requirements for an external audit under no. 5 (b),
7. for obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9, reviewing, amending or, if necessary, terminating correspondent relationships in a third country.

²Subsection (10) sentence 2 applies, with the necessary modifications, to the competent supervisory authorities if these measures are directed.

(6) In the case set out in subsection (3) no. 3, at least the following enhanced due diligence requirements must

be fulfilled:

1. the transaction and its background and purpose must be examined by taking appropriate measures so that the risk associated with the respective business relationship or transactions can be monitored and assessed with regard to money laundering and terrorist financing and to determine, if applicable, whether a reporting requirement under section 43 (1) exists, and
2. where a transaction is based on an underlying business relationship, this relationship is to be subject to enhanced, ongoing monitoring in order that the risk associated with the business relationship and individual transactions with regard to money laundering and terrorist financing can be assessed and, in the case of heightened risk, monitored.

(7) In the case set out in subsection (3) no. 4, obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9 are required to fulfil at least the following enhanced due diligence requirements when establishing a business relationship:

1. sufficient information about the respondent must be obtained so that the nature of their business can be fully understood and their reputation, their controls for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing and the quality of supervision can be assessed,
2. the approval of a member of senior management must be obtained before a business relationship with the respondent is established,
3. before such a business relationship is established, the respective responsibilities of participants with regard to the fulfilment of due diligence requirements must be determined and documented in accordance with section 8,
4. measures must be taken to ensure that the obliged entity does not establish or continue a business relationship with a respondent whose accounts are known to be used by a shell bank, and
5. measures must be taken to ensure that the respondent does not permit payments through payable-through accounts.

(8) If there are facts, relevant evaluations, reports or assessments from national or international agencies responsible for preventing or combating money laundering or terrorist financing that justify the assumption that a higher risk exists beyond the cases set out in subsection (3), the supervisory authority may order the obliged entities to enhance their monitoring of the transactions and business relationships and fulfil additional due diligence requirements appropriate to the risk and any necessary countermeasures.

(9) If the obliged entity is not in a position to fulfil the enhanced due diligence requirements, section 10 (9) applies, with the necessary modifications.

(10) ¹The Federal Ministry of Finance may, by way of a statutory order not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*,

1. designate types of cases in which a potentially higher risk of money laundering and terrorist financing exists, particularly with regard to countries, customers, products, services, transactions or delivery channels, and in which the obliged entities are required to fulfil specific enhanced due diligence requirements and countermeasures,
2. for types of cases within the meaning of subsection (3) no. 2, order enhanced due diligence requirements and countermeasures and make arrangements for the competent supervisory authorities under subsection (5a) to order and ordering and structure enhanced due diligence requirements.

²When enacting a statutory instrument under this provision, the Federal Ministry of Finance must take into account relevant evaluations, assessments or reports drawn up by international organisations and standard setters with competence in the field of preventing money laundering and combating terrorist financing, in relation to the risks posed by individual third countries.

Section 16 Special requirements governing online gambling services

(1) ¹Obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 15 are, insofar as they offer or broker online games of chance, subject to the special provisions of subsections (2) to (8). ²The threshold under section 10 (5) does not apply when the general due diligence requirements are applied.

(2) The obliged entity may only admit a player to an online game of chance once it has set up a gambling account for the player in the name of the player.

(3) ¹The obliged entity may not accept any deposits or other refundable monies from the player in the gambling account. ²The balance in the gambling account must not bear any interest. ³Section 3 (3) sentence 3 of the Payment Services Supervision Act applies to funds received, with the necessary modifications.

(4) ¹The obliged entity must ensure that the player's transactions to the gambling account occur only

1. through a payment transaction executed

- a) by means of a direct debit as defined in section 1 (1) sentence 2 no. 3 (a) of the Payment Services Supervision Act;
- b) by means of a credit transfer as defined in section 1 (1) sentence 2 no. 3 (c) of the Payment Services Supervision Act;
- c) by means of a payment card as defined in section 1 (1) sentence 2 no. 3 (b) of the Payment Services Supervision Act in the name of the player and

2. from a payment account as defined in section 1 (17) of the Payment Services Supervision Act which was set up in the name of the player with an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 1 or no. 3.

²The obliged entity may be exempted from fulfilling the requirements set out in sentence 1 no. 1 (c) and no. 2 if it is guaranteed that the payment for participating in the game does not exceed €25 for a single transaction or €100 for several transactions in a calendar month.

(5) The obliged entity is required to inform the supervisory authority without delay whenever a payment account as defined in section 1 (17) of the Payment Services Supervision Act held in its name with an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 1 or no. 3 is opened or closed, into which account a player's funds are accepted to enable participation in online games of chance.

(6) When the obliged entity or another issuer issues a player with monetary value stored on an instrument as defined in section 2 (1) no. 10 of the Payment Services Supervision Act which is intended to be used for gambling account transactions, the obliged entity or issuer is required to ensure that the identity of the holder of the instrument with monetary value is the same as that of the gambling account holder.

(7) ¹The obliged entity may carry out transactions to the player only

1. through a payment transaction executed under subsection (4) and

2. to a payment account set up in the name of the player with an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 1 or no. 3.

²The obliged entity is required to specify the payment reference in the transaction in such a manner that the reason for the payment transaction is transparent to an outside observer. ³The competent authorities may designate standard wordings to be used by the obliged entities for the payment reference.

(8) ¹By way of derogation from section (11), the obliged entity may carry out a provisional identification of a player for whom it sets up a gambling account. ²The provisional identification may be based on an electronic copy or a copy sent by post of a document under section 12 (1) sentence 1 no. 1. ³A full identification is to be conducted subsequently without delay. ⁴Both the provisional and the full identification may also take place on the basis of the requirements regarding identification and authentication under gambling law.

Section 17 Performance of due diligence by third parties, contractual outsourcing

(1) ¹The obliged entity may engage third parties in order to fulfil the general due diligence requirements under section 10 (1) nos. 1 to 4. ²Third parties must only be

1. obliged entities under section 2 (1),

2. obliged entities under Article 2(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 in another member state of the European Union,

3. member organisations or associations of obliged entities under no. 2 or institutions and persons located in a third country if they are subject to due diligence and record-keeping requirements
 - a) that are equivalent to the due diligence and record-keeping requirements set out in Directive (EU) 2015/849 and
 - b) where compliance with these due diligence and record-keeping requirements is supervised in a manner consistent with Chapter IV(2) of Directive (EU) 2015/849.

³The responsibility for fulfilling the general due diligence requirements remains with the obliged entity.

(2) ¹Obliged entities must not engage third parties established in a high-risk third country. ²An exemption from this applies to

1. branches of obliged entities under Article 2(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 established in the European Union, provided the branch fully implements the group-wide policies and procedures under Article 45(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849, and
2. subsidiaries majority-owned by an obliged entity under Article 2(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 established in the European Union, provided the subsidiary fully implements the group-wide policies and procedures pursuant to Article 45 of Directive (EU) 2015/849.

(3) ¹When an obliged entity engages third parties, it must ensure that the third parties

1. comply with the provisions of this Act when identifying persons located in Germany,
2. obtain the information necessary to fulfil the due diligence requirements under section 10 (1) nos. 1 to 4, and
3. transmit this information directly and without delay to the obliged entity.

²In addition, the obliged entity is required to take appropriate steps to ensure that, at its request, the third parties, without delay, present copies of the documents relevant for establishing and verifying the identity of the contracting party, any persons representing the contracting party and any beneficial owner, including, where available, information obtained through electronic identification means under section 12 (1) no. 4, as well as other relevant documents. ³The third parties have the right to make copies of and pass on identity documents for this purpose.

(3a) ¹To identify the contracting party, any person representing the contracting party and a beneficial owner, the third party can also use information obtained at an earlier time to identify that person in accordance with subsection (3) sentence 1 no.2, provided that

1. the person was identified in the course of establishing the third party's own business relationship, and not using simplified due diligence,
2. the identification or the most recent update was completed not more than 24 months previously in compliance with section 12,
3. external circumstances mean that the obliged entity does not have any doubt that the information provided to it is correct, and
4. the validity of any identification document used in the identification or the most recent update in compliance with section 12 has not expired.

²Subsection (3) sentences 2 and 3 applies, with the necessary modifications.

(4) The requirements of subsections (1) and (3) are deemed to have been fulfilled if

1. the obliged entity engages third parties belonging to the same group as itself,
2. the due diligence requirements, record-keeping requirements, policies and procedures for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing which are adopted by the group are consistent with the provisions of Directive (EU) 2015/849 or equivalent provisions and
3. the effective implementation of these requirements at group level is supervised by an authority.

(5) ¹An obliged entity may delegate performance of the measures necessary in order to fulfil the due diligence

requirements under section 10 (1) nos. 1 to 4 to suitable persons and companies other than the third parties specified in subsection (1).²Delegation requires a contractual agreement and the obliged entity must ensure that the other suitable persons and companies comply with the provisions of this Act. ³Measures taken by the persons or the companies are deemed to be the obliged entity's own. ⁴Subsection (3) applies, with the necessary modifications.

(6) Delegation under subsection (5) must not

1. hinder the obliged entity in fulfilling its obligations under this Act,
2. interfere with the powers and ability of the obliged entity's management to supervise and oversee the institution or person or
3. interfere with the powers and ability of the supervisory authority to supervise the obliged entity.

(7) ¹Before delegating under subsection (5), the obliged entity is required to satisfy itself of the reliability of the person or company which is to be entrusted with the measures. ²During the course of the cooperation, the obliged entity must satisfy itself, by means of spot checks, of the appropriateness and propriety of the measures adopted by the person or company.

(8) ¹Where a contractual agreement as described in subsection (5) is entered into with German embassies, foreign chambers of commerce or consulates, they are deemed suitable by agreement. ²Subsection (7) does not apply.

(9) In cases of delegation under subsection (5), the provisions concerning outsourcing of activities and processes under section 25b of the Banking Act remain unaffected.

Part 4 Transparency Register

Section 18 Establishment of the transparency register and the registrar entity

(1) A register (transparency register) is established to record and make available information about the beneficial owner.

(2) ¹The transparency register is administered electronically as a sovereign function of the Federal Republic by the registrar entity. ²Data stored in the transparency register is organised as a chronological collection of data.

(3) ¹When a notification under section 20 is incomplete or unclear or when it is doubtful which association under section 20 (1) the information on the beneficial owner contained in the notification is to be attributed to, the registrar entity may request the association named in the notification to transmit the information needed for an entry in the transparency register within an appropriate period. ²This applies, with the necessary modifications, to notifications by legal arrangements under section 21.

(3a) The registrar entity is entitled, on a case-by-case basis, to transmit to the authority under section 56 (5) sentence 2 the information and documents necessary for the authority to perform its functions as set out in section 56 (5) sentence 2.

(4) ¹The registrar entity produces, on request, printouts of data stored in the transparency register and confirmations that there are no current entries in the transparency register due to a notification under section 20 (1) or section 21. ²On request, the registrar entity certifies that transmitted data corresponds to the contents of the transparency register. ³Certification does not guarantee that the information regarding the beneficial owner is accurate and complete. ⁴An application for a printout of data which is merely made accessible via the transparency register under section 22 (1) sentence 1 nos. 4 to 8 may also be transmitted to the court via the transparency register. ⁵This applies, with the necessary modifications, to the transmission to the operator of the company register of an application for a printout of data made accessible under section 22 (1) sentence 1 nos. 2 and 3.

(5) The registrar entity establishes an information security concept for the transparency register, from which the technical and organisational measures taken to protect data are derived.

(6) The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised to regulate, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, the technical details of the establishment and administration of the transparency register, including the storage of historical datasets and compliance with rules on when the data stored in the transparency register has to be deleted.

Section 19 Information on the beneficial owner

(1) With regard to associations under section 20 (1) sentence 1 and legal arrangements under section 21, the following information on the beneficial owner is, in accordance with section 23, accessible via the transparency register:

1. first name and surname,
2. date of birth,
3. place of residence,
4. nature and extent of the beneficial interest, and
5. nationality.

(2) ¹With regard to determining the beneficial owner of associations within the meaning of section 20 (1) sentence 1, with the exception of foundations with legal capacity, section 3 (1) and (2) applies, with the necessary modifications. ²With regard to determining the beneficial owner of legal arrangements under section 21 and foundations with legal capacity, section 3 (1) and (3) applies, with the necessary modifications.

(3) The information on the nature and extent of the beneficial interest under subsection (1) no. 4 indicates the reason for the status of beneficial owner, namely

1. in the case of associations under section 20 (1) sentence 1, with the exception of foundations with legal capacity,
 - a) an ownership interest in the association itself, in particular the size of the share in the capital or the voting rights
 - b) the exercise of control by other means, particularly on the basis of agreements between a third party and a shareholder or between several shareholders or on the basis of the right granted to a third party to appoint legal representatives or other members of bodies or
 - c) the role of legal representative, managing partner or partner.
2. in the case of legal arrangements under section 21 and foundations with legal capacity, one of the roles specified in section 3 (3).

Section 20 Transparency obligations regarding certain associations

(1) ¹Legal persons under private law and registered partnerships are required to obtain, retain and keep up to date the information specified in section 19 (1) on the beneficial owners of these associations and notify the registrar entity of this information without delay for entry into the transparency register. ²The obligation under sentence 1 also applies to associations whose registered office is outside Germany if they undertake to acquire ownership of immovable property located in Germany. ³The obligation under sentence 1 does not apply to associations referred to in sentence 2 if they have already transmitted the information under point (15)(c) of Article 1 of Directive (EU) 2018/843 and under section 19 (1) to another register of a member state of the European Union. ⁴The notification must be made electronically in a format that allows it to be made electronically accessible. ⁵With regard to the information on the nature and extent of the beneficial interest referred to in section 19 (1) no. 4, the reason for the status of beneficial owner under section 19 (3) must be indicated, except for cases where subsection (2) sentence 2 applies.

(1a) Legal persons under private law or registered partnerships that are subject to a notification requirement under subsection (1) sentence 1 and are not entered in one of the registers referred to in subsection (2) sentence 1 nos. 1 to 4 must notify the registrar entity without undue delay if

1. they have changed their name,
2. they have merged,
3. they have been dissolved or
4. there has been a change in their legal form.

(2) ¹The obligation to notify the transparency register under subsection (1) sentence 1 is deemed to have been fulfilled if the information on the beneficial owner specified in section 19 (1) nos. 1 to 4 is already contained in the documents and entries specified in section 22 (1) that are electronically accessible from:

1. the commercial register (section 8 of the Commercial Code),
2. the partnership register (section 5 of the Partnership Companies Act (*Partnerschaftsgesellschaftsgesetz*)),
3. the cooperative society register (section 10 of the Act Concerning Industrial and Trading Cooperative Societies (*Genossenschaftsgesetz*)),
4. the register of associations (section 55 of the Civil Code (*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*)) or
5. the company register (section 8b (2) of the Commercial Code).

²The obligation to notify the transparency register is always deemed to be fulfilled for companies that are listed on an organised market under section 2 (11) of the Securities Trading Act or subject to transparency obligations equivalent to community law with regard to voting rights percentages or to comparable international standards. ³No separate information regarding the nature and extent of the beneficial interest under section 19 (1) sentence 4 is required if the documents and entries specified in section 22 (1) show the reason for the status of beneficial owner under section 19 (3). ⁴If the beneficial owner changes after the transparency register has received a notification under subsection (1) sentence 1, such that the information on the beneficial owner can now be seen from the registers specified in sentence 1, the registrar entity must be informed of this without delay under subsection (1) sentence 1 in order to include it in the transparency register.

(3) ¹Beneficial owners of associations under subsection (1) must notify the information required to fulfil the obligations under subsection (1) to those associations, and must notify any change to this information without undue delay. ²Shareholders that are beneficial owners or under the direct control of a beneficial owner must notify the information required to fulfil the obligations referred to in subsection (1) to the associations specified in subsection (1), and must notify any change to this information without undue delay. ³If a member of an association or a cooperative society controls more than 25 per cent of the voting rights, the notification requirement under sentence 1 applies to this member. ⁴In the case of foundations, the notification requirement under sentence 1 applies to the persons specified in section 3 (3).

(3a) ¹If the association has not received any information from the beneficial owners as set out in subsection (3), it must request its shareholders, if known, to provide appropriate information about the association's beneficial owners. ²The shareholders are required to respond to the request for information within a reasonable period. ³The obligation to request information under sentence 1 does not apply if the association is already aware of the information about the beneficial owner under section 19 from another source. ⁴The association must document the request for information and the information obtained.

(3b) ¹If the shareholder becomes aware that there has been a change in the association's beneficial owner, it must inform the association within a reasonable period. ²Sentence 1 does not apply if

1. the information about the new beneficial owner is already available via the transparency register, or
2. the shareholder has positive knowledge from another source that the new beneficial owner is known to the association.

³The shareholder must document and retain the notification to the association.

(4) The notification obligation under subsection (3) does not apply if the reporting obligation under subsection (1) is deemed to have been fulfilled under subsection (2) or if the shareholders, members and beneficial owners have already communicated the required information in some other form.

(5) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit and the supervisory authorities may, in the framework of their functions and powers, view the information stored under subsection (1) or have it provided to them. ²The information must be provided to them without undue delay.

Section 21 Transparency obligations regarding certain legal arrangements

(1) ¹Administrators of trusts (trustees) resident or located in Germany are required to obtain, retain and keep up to date the information specified in section 19 (1) on the beneficial owners of the trust they administer and the nationalities of the beneficial owners and to notify the registrar entity of this information without delay for entry into the transparency register. ²The obligation under sentence 1 also applies to trustees who are resident or located outside the European Union if they initiate a business relationship for the trust with a contracting party whose registered office is in Germany, or if they undertake to acquire ownership of immovable property located in Germany. ³The obligation under sentence 1 does not apply to trustees referred to in sentence 2 if a trustee has already transmitted the information under point (16)(a) of Article 1 of Directive (EU) 2018/843 and under section 19 (1) to another register of a member state of the European Union, and

1. the trustee also has a residence or registered office in that member state of the European Union or
2. one of the contracting parties with which a trust whose residence or registered office is outside the European Union also maintains a business relationship has its registered office in that member state.

(1a) ¹The notification must be made electronically in a format that allows it to be made electronically accessible. ²The trust must be unambiguously identified in the notification. ³With regard to the information on the nature and extent of the beneficial interest as referred to in section 19 (1) no. 4, the reason for the status of the beneficial owner under section 19 (3) no. 2 must be indicated.

(1b) The registrar entity must also be notified by the entity obliged to make the notification under subsection (1) if the trust

1. has been renamed,
2. has been dissolved or
3. is no longer obliged under subsection (1).

(2) The obligations specified in subsections (1), (1a) and (1b) apply, with the necessary modifications, to trustees whose residence or registered office is in Germany of the following legal arrangements:

1. foundations without legal capacity if the purpose of the foundation is, from the donor's point of view, in their own interest and
2. legal arrangements whose structure and function is equivalent to such foundations.

(3) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit and the supervisory authorities may, in the framework of their functions and powers, inspect the information stored by administrators of trusts under subsection (1) and by trustees under subsection (2), or have it provided to them. ²The information must be provided to them without undue delay.

(4) In consultation with the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Finance may, by way of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, adopt more detailed requirements governing which trusts and similar legal vehicles are covered by section 21 (1) and (2) and the characteristics that define them.

Section 22 Accessible documents and transmission of data to the transparency register, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹In accordance with section 23, the following information is accessible via the website of the transparency register:

1. entries in the transparency register on reports under section 20 (1) sentence 1, (2) sentence 4 and under section 21,
2. announcements concerning the existence of a shareholding under section 20 (6) of the Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz*),
3. voting rights notifications under sections 40 and 41 of the Securities Trading Act,

4. lists of the shareholders of limited liability companies and entrepreneurial companies under section 8 (1) no. 3 and section 40 of the Limited Liability Companies Act (*Gesetz betreffend die Gesellschaften mit beschränkter Haftung*) as well as partnership agreements under section 8 (1) no. 1 in conjunction with section 2 (1a) sentence 2 of the Limited Liability Companies Act, if they are deemed to be lists of shareholders under section 2 (1a) sentence 4 of the Limited Liability Companies Act,
5. entries in the commercial register,
6. entries in the partnership register,
7. entries in the cooperative society register,
8. entries in the register of associations.

²The documents and entries specified in sentence 1 nos. 2 to 8 are accessible to the extent set out for inspection in the particular provisions of register law only if they can be retrieved electronically from the public registers specified in section 20 (2) sentence 1.

(2) ¹In order to provide access to the original data under subsection (1) sentence 1 nos. 2 to 8 via the website of the transparency register, the (index) data needed for this must be transmitted to the transparency register.

²The operator of the company register transmits the index data for the original data under subsection (1) sentence 1 nos. 2 and 3 to the transparency register. ³The justice administrations of the *Länder* (*Landesjustizverwaltungen*) transmit the index data for the original data under subsection (1) sentence 1 nos. 4 to 8 to the transparency register. ⁴The index data serve only to mediate access and may not be made accessible.

(3) ¹The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised to regulate, in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, technical details of the data transmission between the authorities of the *Länder* and the transparency register for data transmission under subsection (2) sentence 3, including provisions for the data formats to be used and for guaranteeing data protection and data security. ²Derogations from the procedural rules by the law of a *Land* are inadmissible.

(4) The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised to regulate, in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, by means of a statutory provision not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, registration procedures for the parties subject to a notification obligation under sections 20 and 21, as well as technical details of the data transmission under subsection (2) sentence 2 and sections 20 and 21, including provisions on which data formats and forms to use and for guaranteeing data protection and data security.

Footnotes

Section 22 (1) sentence 1 no. 3: in the version of Article 10 no. 2 of the Act of 10 July 2018, Federal Law Gazette 2018 I page 1102 effective 14 July 2018

Section 23 Inspection of the transparency register, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹In the case of associations within the meaning of section 20 (1) sentence 1 and of legal arrangements under section 21, inspection is permitted for

1. the following authorities, insofar as this is necessary for the performance of their legal functions:
 - a) the supervisory authorities and the authority referred to in section 25 (6) and section 56 (5) sentence 2,
 - b) the German Financial Intelligence Unit,
 - c) the responsible authorities under section 13 of the Foreign Trade and Payments Act

(Außenwirtschaftsgesetz),

- d) the law enforcement agencies,
 - e) the Federal Central Tax Office and the local revenue authorities under section 6 (2) no. 5 of the Fiscal Code,
 - f) the authorities responsible for the recognition, prevention and elimination of threats,
 - g) the courts and
 - h) the entities referred to in section 2 (4),
2. the obliged entities, provided they demonstrate to the registrar entity that the inspection is being carried out in order to fulfil their due diligence obligations in one of the cases set out in section 10 (3), and
 3. any member of the general public.

²In the case of sentence 1 no. 3, in addition to the information specified in section 19 (1) nos. 1 to 4, only the month and year of birth of the beneficial owner, their country of residence and nationality are accessible for inspection unless all the information specified in section 19 (1) is already known from other public registers.

(2) ¹At the request of the beneficial owner, the registrar entity restricts inspection of the transparency register wholly or partially if the beneficial owner demonstrates to it that, taking into account all circumstances of the individual case, overriding legitimate interests of the beneficial owner stand in the way of an inspection.

²Legitimate interests are deemed to exist if:

1. facts justify the assumption that the inspection would expose the beneficial owner to the risk of falling victim to one of the following criminal offences:
 - a) fraud (section 263 of the Criminal Code),
 - b) extortionate kidnapping (section 239a of the Criminal Code),
 - c) hostage taking (section 239b of the Criminal Code),
 - d) extortion or robbery-like extortion (sections 253, 255 of the Criminal Code),
 - e) a punishable act threatening life or limb (sections 211, 212, 223, 224, 226, 227 of the Criminal Code),
 - f) coercion (section 240 of the Criminal Code),
 - g) threat (section 241 of the Criminal Code) or
2. the beneficial owner is a minor or is incapacitated.

³The beneficial owner is not deemed to have legitimate interests if the data is already accessible from the registers referred to in section 22 (1). ⁴Restricting inspection under sentence 1 is not possible vis-à-vis the authorities specified in subsection (1) sentence 1 no. 1, vis-à-vis obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 7 or vis-à-vis notaries. ⁵The registrar entity must prepare annual statistical data about the number of approved restrictions and whether the restrictions were approved under sentence 1 no. 1 or 2, publish it on its website and provide it to the European Commission.

(3) ¹Inspection requires prior online registration by the user and may be logged for the purpose of monitoring who has carried out an inspection. ²The registrar entity is not authorised to disclose to associations under section 20 and legal arrangements under section 21 who has inspected the information provided by the associations and legal arrangements about their beneficial owners.

(4) The transparency register allows associations under section 20 (1) sentence 1 and legal arrangements under section 21 to be searched for in all stored data as well as all index data.

(5) The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised to determine, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, specific details of the inspection and restriction, particularly for the online registration and logging, such as the data to be logged and the time limits for deleting data logged under subsection (3), for the requirements for inspection under subsection (1) sentence 1 nos. 2 and 3, and for the requirements for restricting inspections under subsection (2).

Section 23a Reporting discrepancies to the registrar entity

(1) ¹Obligated entities under section 23 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 must report to the registrar entity without undue delay any discrepancies they find between the beneficial ownership information available in the transparency register and the beneficial ownership information and knowledge available to them. ²Section 43 (2) applies, with the necessary modifications. ³The obligation under sentence 1 applies to competent authorities under section 23 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 (a) and (b) to the extent that this does not interfere with their functions. ⁴A discrepancy exists under sentence 1 if entries under section 20 (1) and (2) and under section 21 (1) and (2) are missing, there are discrepancies about individual details of the beneficial owners under section 19 (1) or if different beneficial owners were identified. ⁵The identification of the beneficial owners underlying the discrepancy report must comply with the requirements of section 3.

(2) The registrar entity must establish a clearly visible mechanism on the transparency register website through which the discrepancy reports under subsection (1) can be submitted.

(3) ¹The registrar entity must examine the discrepancy report under subsection (1) without undue delay. ²To do so, it can request the information and documents needed for clarification from the originator of the discrepancy report, the relevant association under section 20 or the legal arrangement under section 21.

(4) The registrar entity will provide the discrepancy report together with all the necessary documents to the authority referred to in section 56 (5) sentence 2 in the course of its responsibility for prosecuting administrative offences under section 56 (1) sentence 1 nos. 54 to 66, if

1. it becomes aware that the beneficial ownership information contained in the transparency register is not accurate or
2. it was unable to complete the examination of the discrepancy report because of a lack of clarity about the facts.

(5) ¹Once the process of examining the discrepancy report has been completed, the registrar entity must inform the originator of the discrepancy report about the outcome of the examination. ²The process of examining the discrepancy report is deemed to be completed if the registrar entity or the authority referred to in section 56 (5) sentence 2 has come to the conclusion that the discrepancy has been resolved on the basis of the knowledge obtained under subsection (3) or on the basis of a new notification by the association under section 20 or the legal arrangement under section 21 that is the subject of the discrepancy report.

(6) ¹Following receipt of the discrepancy report under subsection (1), the registrar entity must make a visible note on the register extract that the information on the beneficial owners of the association under section 20 or the legal arrangement under section 21 is being examined. ²The completion of the process of examining the discrepancy report must be noted on the register extract.

Section 24 Fees and charges, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹The registrar entity charges associations under section 20 and legal arrangements under section 21 fees for managing the register. ²On application, this does not apply to associations under section 20 that pursue a tax-privileged purpose within the meaning of sections 52 to 54 of the Tax Code and prove this to the registrar entity by means of a certificate issued by the responsible tax office.

(2) ¹For the inspection of the data notified to the transparency register under section 20 (1) and section 21, the registrar entity charges fees and expenses to cover the administrative costs. ²The same applies to the production of printouts, confirmations and certifications under section 18 (4). ³Authorities and courts referred to in section 23 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 and the authority referred to in section 56 (5) sentence 2 are not required to pay any fees and charges under sentences 1 and 2. ⁴Section 8 (2) sentence 1 of the Act on Fees and Expenses for Federal Services (*Bundesgebührengesetz*) does not apply. ⁵Section 8 of the Act on Fees and Expenses for Federal Services applies to authorities.

(2a) To cover the administrative costs of registering and identifying beneficial owners in connection with an application under section 23 (6), the registrar entity will impose fees and charges on the applicants under section 23 (6).

(3) The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised to regulate, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, more specific details of the following:

1. situations subject to fees,
2. persons subject to fees,
3. fee rates as fixed rates or as scaled fees,
4. the reimbursement of expenses and
5. the procedure for exemption from fees under subsection (1) sentence 2.

Section 25 Transfer of the administration of the transparency register, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised to confer, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, the functions of the registrar entity and the powers needed to perform these functions on a legal person under private law.

(2) ¹These functions may only be conferred on a legal person under private law if this person provides a guarantee that they will perform the functions transferred to them properly and, in particular, that they will operate the transparency register reliably and on a long-term basis. ²They are deemed to provide the required guarantee if

1. the natural persons who, by law or according to the articles of association or the statutes, act as managers and representatives, are fit and proper,
2. they have basic experience with making information under register law accessible, particularly commercial register data, company announcements and information under capital markets law,
3. they have the organisational systems and the technical and financial resources necessary to perform their functions and
4. they ensure compliance with the provisions regarding the protection of personal data.

(3) ¹The period of the conferral is to be time-limited. ²It should not be shorter than five years. ³The possibility of terminating the conferral before the expiry of the period if an important reason exists is to be provided for. ⁴If the conditions for conferral have not been fulfilled or are no longer fulfilled, it should be possible to terminate the conferral at any time. ⁵It is to be ensured that, on termination of the conferral, all software programs and data needed to continue the proper administration of the transparency register be made available, without delay, to the Federal Ministry of Finance or an institution appointed by it and that the rights to these software programs and to the internet address used by the transparency register are transferred to the Federal Ministry of Finance or the institution appointed by it.

(4) ¹The conferee is entitled to use the small *Bundessiegel*. ²It is made available by the Federal Ministry of Finance. ³The small *Bundessiegel* may only be used to certify printouts from the transparency register and to issue confirmations under section 18 (4).

(5) ¹The conferee has the right to collect the fees under section 24. ²The fee revenue collected belongs to the conferee. ³In the statutory instrument, the Federal Ministry of Finance may transfer the enforcement of notifications of charges to the conferee.

(6) ¹The conferee is subject to the legal and operational supervision of the Federal Office of Administration. ²In order to exercise its supervisory activity, the Federal Office of Administration may inform itself about the affairs of the conferee at any time, in particular by obtaining information and reports and by demanding that records of any kind be submitted, object to unlawful measures and demand that remedial action be taken. ³The conferee is obliged to comply with the instructions from the Federal Office of Administration. ⁴If the conferee fails to comply with the instructions or does not comply with them within the required period, the Federal Office of Administration may, at the conferee's expense, implement the required measures itself instead or have them implemented by a third party. ⁵The employees and others working on behalf of the Federal Office of Administration have the right to enter, view and inspect the conferee's business premises, office premises and operating premises during hours of operation and business hours to the extent necessary to perform their functions. ⁶Objects or business documents may be viewed and taken into custody insofar as this is necessary.

(7) If the administration of the transparency register is not conferred on a legal person under private law, or if

the conferral is terminated, the Federal Ministry of Finance may transfer the administration of the transparency register to a higher federal authority within its segment of competence or, in consultation with the competent federal ministry, to another higher federal authority within that ministry's segment of competence.

Section 26 European system for the interconnection of registers, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹If it relates to legal persons under private law and registered partnerships under section 20 as well as legal arrangements under section 21, the data specified in section 22 (1) sentence 1 is accessible via the European Central Platform established by Article 22(1) of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 relating to certain aspects of company law. ²Section 23 (1) to (3) applies, with the necessary modifications. ³To enable access via the Central European Platform, the registrar entity transmits the data notified to the transparency register under section 20 (1) and section 21 as well as the index data under section 22 (2) to the Central European Platform within the meaning of Article 22(1) of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 and Article 4a(1) of Directive 2009/101/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on coordination of safeguards which, for the protection of the interests of members and third parties, are required by Member States of companies within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 48 of the Treaty, with a view to making such safeguards equivalent (OJ L 258 of 1 October 2009, page 11), as most recently amended by Directive 2013/24/EU (OJ L 158 of 10 June 2013, page 365), insofar as the transmission of such data is necessary in order to provide access to the original data via the search function on the website of the Central European Platform.

(2) ¹The transparency register must be interconnected with the registers of other member states of the European Union within the meaning of Article 22(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 via the Central European Platform established by Article 22(1) of Directive (EU) 2017/1132. ²The connection of the member states' registers via the platform must be set up in accordance with the technical specifications and procedures established by implementing acts adopted by the European Commission in accordance with Article 24 of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 and Article 1(17) of Directive (EU) 2018/843.

(3) To the extent that it relates to legal persons under private law and registered partnerships under section 20 or legal arrangements under section 21, data under section 22 (1) sentence 1 will be available through the transparency register and the Central European Platform established by Article 22(1) of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 for a period of at least five years and no more than ten years after the legal persons under private law, registered partnerships or legal arrangements have been struck off from the register, provided they are held in the register, and following completion of the winding-up.

(4) The Federal Ministry of Finance is authorised, in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, by means of a statutory instrument requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, to issue the necessary rules on the details of electronic data traffic and its handling pursuant to subsection (1), including specifications for data formats and terms of payment provided that no regulations are contained in the implementing acts adopted by the European Commission in accordance with Article 24 of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 and Article 31a of Directive (EU) 2018/843.

Part 5 Financial Intelligence Unit (*Zentralstelle für Finanztransaktionsuntersuchungen*)

Section 27 German Financial Intelligence Unit

(1) The *Zentralstelle für Finanztransaktionsuntersuchungen* is the German Financial Intelligence Unit for prevention, detection and support in the combating of money laundering and terrorist financing under Article 32(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849.

(2) The German Financial Intelligence Unit is organisationally autonomous and operates with functional independence in the framework of its functions and powers.

Section 28 Functions, supervision and cooperation

(1) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit has the function of collecting and analysing information related to

money laundering or terrorist financing and passing this information on to the competent domestic public authorities for the purpose of the investigation, prevention or prosecution of such offences. ²It is responsible in this context for:

1. receiving and collecting reports under this Act,
2. conducting operational analyses, including the assessment of reports and other information,
3. exchanging information and coordinating with domestic supervisory authorities,
4. cooperating and exchanging information with Financial Intelligence Units of other countries,
5. prohibiting transactions and ordering other urgent action,
6. transmitting to the competent domestic public authorities the results of the operational analyses within the meaning of no. 2 which are relevant to them and additional relevant information,
7. providing feedback to an obliged entity which has filed a report under section 43 (1),
8. conducting strategic analyses and producing reports on the basis of these analyses,
9. engaging in dialogue with the obliged entities and with the domestic supervisory authorities and competent domestic public authorities for the investigation, prevention or prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing, in particular about relevant typologies and methods,
10. compiling statistics on the numbers and information specified in Article 44(2) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 and publishing consolidated statistics on an annual basis in an annual report,
11. publishing an annual report on the operational analyses conducted,
12. attending meetings of national and international working groups, and
13. performing functions which have additionally been assigned to it by other provisions.

(2) The German Financial Intelligence Unit is subject to the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Finance, which supervision is limited to legal supervision in the cases set out in subsection (1) nos. 1, 2, 5 and 6.

(3) The German Financial Intelligence Unit and the other competent domestic public authorities for the investigation, prevention and prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other criminal offences and averting threats and the domestic supervisory authorities work together to implement this Act and provide mutual support.

(4) The German Financial Intelligence Unit, where necessary, informs the competent authorities for the taxation procedure or the protection of the social security systems of matters which come to its knowledge in the performance of its functions and which it has not transmitted to another competent government agency.

Section 29 Processing of personal data by the German Financial Intelligence Unit

(1) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may process personal data insofar as this is necessary for the performance of its functions.

(2) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may compare personal data that it has stored for the performance of its functions with other data, if this is permissible under this Act or another Act.

(3) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, for training or statistical purposes, process personal data held by it insofar as the processing of anonymised data for these purposes is not possible.

Section 30 Receipt and analysis of reports

(1) The German Financial Intelligence Unit is required to receive and process the following reports and information for the performance of its functions:

1. reports by obliged entities under section 43 and reports by supervisory authorities under section 44,

2. notifications by revenue authorities under section 31b of the Fiscal Code,
 3. information transmitted to it
 - a) under Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No. 1889/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on controls of cash entering or leaving the Community (OJ L 309, 25 November 2005, page 9), and
 - b) under section 12a of the Customs Administration Act (*Zollverwaltungsgesetz*), and
 4. other information from public and non-public sources within the framework of its functions.
2. The German Financial Intelligence Unit analyses the reports filed under sections 43 and 44 and the notifications made under section 31b of the Fiscal Code in order to verify whether the reported matter is related to moneylaundering, terrorist financing or another criminal offence.

(3) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, irrespective of the existence of a report, obtain information from obliged entities insofar as this is necessary for the performance of its functions. ²It sets an adequate time limit for the obliged entity to respond to its demand for information. ³Obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 and 12 may refuse to provide information insofar as the demand relates to information they obtained in the context of the provision of legal advice or the legal representation of the contracting party. ⁴However, the obligation to provide information continues to exist if the obliged entity knows that the contracting party has used or is using its legal advice for the purpose of moneylaundering or terrorist financing.

Section 31 Right to obtain information from domestic public authorities, right of access to data

(1) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, insofar as this is necessary for the performance of its functions, collect data from domestic public authorities. ²The domestic public authorities provide information to the German Financial Intelligence Unit at its request for the performance of its functions insofar as no transmission restrictions preclude the provision of information.

(2) ¹The enquiries must be answered by the domestic public authority without delay. ²Data related to the enquiry must be made available.

(3) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit should establish an automated process for the transmission, by means of retrieval, of personal data which are stored by other domestic public authorities and which the German Financial Intelligence Unit is entitled by law to receive, unless otherwise stipulated by law and insofar as this form of data transmission is appropriate, with due regard for the legitimate interests of the data subjects, because of the large number of transmissions or because of its particular urgency. ²For the purpose of monitoring the permissibility of the automated retrieval process, the German Financial Intelligence Unit is to state in writing:

1. the reason for and purpose of the comparison or retrieval process,
2. the third parties to whom information is transmitted,
3. the type of data to be transmitted, and
4. the technical and organisational measures to ensure data protection.

(4) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit is entitled, insofar as this is necessary for the performance of its functions under section 28 (1) sentence 2 no. 2, to compare, by automated means, the personal data stored in its information system with the personal data contained in the police information network under section 13 in conjunction with section 29 (1) and (2) of the Act on the *Bundeskriminalamt (Bundeskriminalamtgesetz)*. ²If the comparison under sentence 1 results in a match between transmitted data and data stored in the police information network, the German Financial Intelligence Unit receives, by automated means, the information that a match exists and is entitled to retrieve, by automated means, the data which exist on this in the police information network. ³If the participants in the police information network have categorised data as being especially sensitive and have for this reason prevented data retrieval by the German Financial Intelligence Unit under sentence 2, the participant in the police information network holding the data receives, by automated means, the information that a match exists. ⁴At the same time, in the cases described in sentence 3, the German Financial Intelligence Unit receives the information about the existence of a match and the information about who the participant in the police information network holding the data is. ⁵In the case of information

about the existence of a match under sentence 3, it is the responsibility of the individual participant in the police information system holding the data to contact the German Financial Intelligence Unit without delay and transmit the data to it, insofar as no transmission restrictions preclude this. ⁶The provisions set out in sentences 1 to 5 take precedence over the provision set out in section 29 (8) of the Act on the *Bundeskriminalamt*. ⁷The establishment of a more far-reaching automated retrieval process for the German Financial Intelligence Unit is permissible with the consent of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, the Federal Ministry of Finance and the interior ministries and senate departments for the interior of the *Länder*, insofar as this form of data transmission is appropriate, with due regard for the legitimate interests of the data subjects, because of the large number of transmissions or because of its particular urgency.

(4a) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit is entitled, insofar as this is necessary for the performance of its functions under section 28 (1) sentence 2 no. 2, to obtain information from the Central Public Prosecution Proceedings Register (*Zentrales Staatsanwaltschaftliches Verfahrensregister*) by automated means, by providing the first name, surname and, additionally, the date of birth, place of birth or last known address of a natural person. ²If the information obtained under sentence 1 results in a match between transmitted data and data stored in the Central Public Prosecution Proceedings Register, the German Financial Intelligence Unit receives, by automated means, the information that a match exists and is entitled to retrieve, by automated means, the data which exist on this in the Central Public Prosecution Proceedings Register. ³The personal data obtained from the Central Public Prosecution Proceedings Register may only be used for operational analysis purposes.

(5) ¹Revenue authorities provide information to the German Financial Intelligence Unit in accordance with section 31b (1) no. 5 of the Fiscal Code and, under section 31b (2) of the Fiscal Code, notify it of the information specified in that subsection. ²As preparation for requesting information from tax offices, the German Financial Intelligence Unit may, by providing the first name, surname and the address or date of birth of a natural person, retrieve, by automated means, the details of the relevant tax office and tax number for this natural person from the database under section 139b of the Fiscal Code. ³Automated retrieval by the German Financial Intelligence Unit of other data which are stored by the revenue authorities and subject to the tax secrecy requirement under section 30 of the Fiscal Code is only possible insofar as this is permitted by the Fiscal Code or the tax laws. ⁴By way of derogation from sentence 3, subsection (3) applies to the automated retrieval of data which is stored by the revenue authorities of the customs administration and which the German Financial Intelligence Unit is legally entitled to receive.

(6) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, for the performance of its functions, retrieve data, by automated means, from the files which the credit institutions under section 2 (1) no. 1 and the institutions under section 2 (1) no. 3 are required to maintain under section 24c (1) of the Banking Act. ²Section 24c (4) to (8) of the Banking Act applies to the data transmission, with the necessary modifications.

(7) Insofar as is necessary to verify the particulars of the person concerned, the German Financial Intelligence Unit may retrieve the following data, using the automated retrieval procedure under section 38 of the Federal Act on Registration (*Bundesmeldegesetz*), in addition to the data specified in section 38 (1) of the Federal Act on Registration:

1. current nationalities,
2. previous addresses, indicating primary and secondary residences, and
3. issuing authority, date of issue, duration of validity, serial number of the identity card, provisional identity card or replacement identity card, the recognised and valid passport, or the passport substitute.

Section 32 Obligation to transmit data to domestic public authorities

(1) Reports under section 43 (1) and section 44 must be transmitted by the German Financial Intelligence Unit without delay to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (*Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz*) insofar as there are factual indications that the transmission of this information is necessary for the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution to perform its functions.

(2) ¹If the German Financial Intelligence Unit finds in the operational analysis that property is related to money laundering, terrorist financing or another criminal offence, it transmits the result of its analysis and all relevant information to the competent law enforcement agencies without delay. ²The information specified in sentence 1 is also to be transmitted to the Federal Intelligence Service (*Bundesnachrichtendienst*) insofar as there are

factual indications that this transmission is necessary for the Federal Intelligence Service to perform its functions. ³In the case set out in subsection (1), the German Financial Intelligence Unit also transmits the result of its operational analysis and all relevant information relating to the previously transmitted report to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

(3) The German Financial Intelligence Unit transmits personal data, upon request, to the law enforcement agencies, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the Federal Intelligence Service or the military counterintelligence office of the Federal Ministry of Defence (*Militärischer Abschirmdienst des Bundesministeriums für Verteidigung*) insofar as this is necessary for

1. the investigation of money laundering and terrorist financing or the conduct of criminal proceedings related to these, or
2. the investigation of other threats and the conduct of other criminal proceedings not covered by no. 1.

The German Financial Intelligence Unit transmits personal data, ex officio or upon request, to competent domestic public authorities other than those specified in sentence 1 insofar as this is necessary for

1. taxation procedures,
2. procedures to protect the social security systems, or
3. the performance of functions by the supervisory authorities.

(4) ¹In the cases set out in subsection (3), sentence 1, nos. 1 and 2, the law enforcement agencies and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution are entitled to retrieve, by automated means, the data for the performance of their functions from the German Financial Intelligence Unit, insofar as no transmission restrictions preclude this. ²For the purpose of monitoring the permissibility of the automated retrieval process, the respective law enforcement agencies and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution are to state in writing:

1. the reason for and purpose of the retrieval process,
2. the third parties to whom information is transmitted,
3. the type of data to be transmitted, and
4. the technical and organisational measures to ensure data protection.

(5) ¹Personal data must not be transmitted under subsection (3)

1. if the provision of the data could have a negative impact on the success of an ongoing investigation by the competent domestic public authorities, or
2. if the disclosure of the data would be disproportionate.

²If a retrieval under subsection (4) relates to data which, in principle, may not be retrieved by automated means because of transmission restrictions, the German Financial Intelligence Unit is notified of the query by automated means via the transmission of all query data. ³In this case, it is responsible for contacting the authority which performed the query without delay, in order to clarify in the individual case whether information under subsection (3) may be transmitted.

(6) ¹If the law enforcement agency has initiated criminal proceedings on the basis of a matter transmitted under subsection (2), it notifies the competent revenue authority of the matter together with the underlying facts if a transaction is identified which could be of relevance for the revenue authority for the initiation or conduct of taxation procedures or criminal tax proceedings. ²If the law enforcement agency uses records under section 11 (1) in the criminal proceedings, these records may also be transmitted to the revenue authority. ³The notifications and records may be used for taxation procedures and for criminal proceedings in relation to tax crimes.

(7) ¹The recipient may only use the personal data transmitted for the purpose for which they were transmitted.

²Their use for other purposes is permissible to the extent that it would also have been permissible for the data to be transmitted for those purposes.

Section 33 Exchange of data with member states of the European Union

(1) ¹The exchange of data with the Financial Intelligence Units of other member states of the European Union responsible for the prevention, detection and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing must be ensured irrespective of the type of predicate offence for money laundering and also if the type of predicate offence has not been established. ²In particular, a differing definition in an individual case of the tax crimes which, under national law, can qualify as a predicate offence for money laundering does not preclude an exchange of information with Financial Intelligence Units of other member states of the European Union. ³If the German Financial Intelligence Unit receives a report under section 43 (1) which concerns the area of competence of another member state, it forwards the report to the Financial Intelligence Unit of that member state promptly. ⁴For this purpose, together with the Financial Intelligence Units of other member states, the German Financial Intelligence Unit can establish and operate a system for encrypted automated transmission.

(2) ¹The provisions on international data transmission under section 35 (2) to (6) apply, with the necessary modifications, to the transmission of the data. ²Section 35 (2) applies, subject to the proviso that that German Financial Intelligence Unit is required to use the powers conferred on it by this Act to obtain and forward information when it replies to a request for information. ³The German Financial Intelligence Unit is responsible for the permissibility of the data transmission. ⁴The German Financial Intelligence Unit uses secure communication channels for the exchange of data with Financial Intelligence Units of other member states.

(3) ¹If additional information is required about an obliged entity which is active in Germany and which is entered in a public register in another member state of the European Union, the German Financial Intelligence Unit sends its request to the Financial Intelligence Unit of that member state of the European Union. ²If the German Financial Intelligence Unit receives a request from a Financial Intelligence Unit in another member state for additional information about an obliged entity that is registered in Germany and operates in the territory of the German Financial Intelligence Unit, the German Financial Intelligence Unit uses the powers conferred on it by this Act to obtain and forward information. ³Inquiries and answers under sentences 1 and 2 must be transmitted without undue delay.

(4) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may only reject a request for the transmission of information which it has been sent by a Financial Intelligence Unit of a member state of the European Union in the context of the performance of its functions if

1. the transmission of information could jeopardise the internal or external security or other essential interests of the Federal Republic of Germany,
2. in an individual case the transmission of information, even if there is a public interest in the information being transmitted, cannot be reconciled with the fundamental principles of German law,
3. the transmission of information could hinder or jeopardise criminal investigations or the conduct of judicial proceedings, or
4. the transmission is precluded by conditions under the law on mutual legal assistance imposed by foreign authorities with which the competent authorities are to comply.

²The German Financial Intelligence Unit sets out appropriately in writing to the requesting Financial Intelligence Unit the reasons for rejecting the request for information, except if the operational analysis is not yet complete or insofar as this could jeopardise the investigations.

(5) ¹If the German Financial Intelligence Unit transmits information to a Financial Intelligence Unit of a member state of the European Union at that unit's request, it should normally express its consent to the disclosure of the information to other authorities of that member state without undue delay and regardless of the type of associated predicate offences. ²The German Financial Intelligence Unit may only refuse its consent for the reasons set out in subsection (4). ³The German Financial Intelligence Unit sets out appropriately the reasons for its refusal to give consent. ⁴Use of the information for other purposes requires the prior consent of the German Financial Intelligence Unit.

(6) The German Financial Intelligence Unit appoints a central contact point that is responsible under this provision for receiving requests for information from the Financial Intelligence Units of other member states.

Section 34 Information requests in the framework of international cooperation

(1) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may request that the Financial Intelligence Units of other countries which deal with the prevention, detection and combating of money laundering, predicate offences for money laundering and terrorist financing provide information, including personal data or the transmission of

documents, if this information and these documents are necessary for the performance of its functions.

(2) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, for a request, transmit personal data insofar as this is necessary to substantiate a legitimate interest in the information sought and if overriding legitimate interests of the person concerned do not preclude this.

(3) ¹In the request, the German Financial Intelligence Unit must reveal the purpose of the data collection and provide notification of its intention to disclose the data to other domestic public authorities. ²The German Financial Intelligence Unit may only use the data transmitted by the Financial Intelligence Unit of another country

1. for the purposes for which the data was requested, and
2. in compliance with the conditions under which the data was made available.

³If the data transmitted will subsequently be disclosed to another public authority or used for a purpose beyond the original purposes, the prior consent of the transmitting Financial Intelligence Unit must be obtained.

Section 35 Data transmission in the framework of international cooperation

(1) ¹If the German Financial Intelligence Unit receives a report under section 43 (1) which concerns the area of competence of another country, it may forward this report promptly to the Financial Intelligence Unit of that country. ²It notifies the Financial Intelligence Unit of the country concerned that the personal data may only be used for the purpose for which it has been transmitted.

(2) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may transmit personal data to the Financial Intelligence Unit of another country at its request

1. for an operational analysis to be conducted by the Financial Intelligence Unit of the other country,
2. in the framework of a planned urgent measure under section 40, insofar as facts indicate that the property
 - a) is located in Germany, and
 - b) is connected with a matter which is before the Financial Intelligence Unit of the other country, or
3. for the performance of the functions of another foreign public authority which serves to prevent, detect and combat money laundering or predicate offences for money laundering or terrorist financing.

²For this purpose, it may use information held by it. ³If this information also includes data collected or transmitted by other domestic or foreign authorities, the disclosure of this data is only permissible with the consent of these authorities, unless the information comes from publicly accessible sources. ⁴The German Financial Intelligence Unit may request information from other domestic public authorities in accordance with sections 28, 30 and 31 or demand information from obliged entities. ⁵Requests for information and demands for information must be answered in a timely manner.

(3) The transmission of personal data to a Financial Intelligence Unit of another country is only permissible if the request contains at least the following information:

1. the name, address and other contact details of the requesting authority,
2. the reasons for the request and designation of the purpose for which the data are to be used under subsection (2),
3. necessary details about the identity of the person concerned insofar as the request relates to a known person,
4. a description of the matter on which the request is based, and the authority to which the data are to be disclosed, where applicable, and
5. an indication of the extent to which the matter concerns money laundering or terrorist financing.

(4) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may also transmit personal data to a Financial Intelligence Unit of another country without a request if facts indicate that natural or legal persons in the territory of that country have committed money laundering or terrorist financing offences. ²This applies irrespective of the type of

predicate offence for moneylaundering and also if the type of predicate offence has not been established.

(5) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit is responsible for the permissibility of the data transmission. ²When transmitting data to a foreign Financial Intelligence Unit, it may impose restrictions and conditions on the use of the data transmitted.

(6) ¹The recipient of personal data must be notified that the personal data may only be used for the purpose for which they have been transmitted. ²If the data is to be disclosed by the requesting foreign Financial Intelligence Unit to another authority in that country, the prior consent of the German Financial Intelligence Unit is required, with due regard for the purpose and the legitimate interests of the data subject regarding the data. ³If the information is to be used as evidence in criminal proceedings, the rules of cross-border cooperation in criminal matters apply.

(7) ¹Personal data must not be transmitted to a foreign Financial Intelligence Unit if

1. the transmission could harm the internal or external security or other essential interests of the Federal Republic of Germany,
2. special transmission provisions in federal law preclude transmission, or
3. in the individual case, even with due regard for the special public interest in the transmission of the data, the legitimate interests of the data subject are overriding.

²The legitimate interests of the data subject also include the existence of an appropriate level of data protection in the receiving country. ³The legitimate interests of the data subject may also be safeguarded by appropriate protection of the data transmitted being guaranteed in the individual case by the receiving country or the receiving international or supranational authority.

(8) Personal data should not be transmitted if

1. the transmission could hinder or jeopardise criminal investigations or the conduct of judicial proceedings, or
2. it is not ensured that the requesting foreign Financial Intelligence Unit would respond to a German request of the same kind.

(9) The reasons for rejecting a request for information should be set out appropriately to the requesting Financial Intelligence Unit.

(10) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit is required to record the date, the data transmitted and the receiving Financial Intelligence Unit. ²If data is not transmitted, this must be recorded accordingly. ³It must retain this data for three years and then delete it.

Section 36 Automated data reconciliation in a European network

¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, in a network with Financial Intelligence Units of other member states of the European Union, establish and operate a system for the encrypted, automated comparison of suitable data collected by the national Financial Intelligence Units in the performance of their functions. ²The purpose of this system is to gain knowledge of whether Financial Intelligence Units of other member states of the European Union have already conducted an analysis under section 30 in relation to a data subject or have other information relating to this person.

Section 37 Rectification, restriction of processing and deletion of personal data in the case of automated processing and in the case of storage in automated files

(1) The German Financial Intelligence Unit rectifies stored personal data which is inaccurate and which it processes by automated means.

(2) The German Financial Intelligence Unit deletes stored personal data if the storage of this data is impermissible or knowledge of this data is no longer necessary for the performance of its functions.

(3) ¹Instead of the data being deleted, the processing of the stored personal data is restricted if

1. there are indications that deletion would adversely affect legitimate interests of a data subject,
2. the data is required for ongoing research work, or
3. deletion is only possible with disproportionate effort because of the special nature of the storage.

²Data which is subject to a restriction of processing may only be processed for the purpose which prevented its deletion. ³It may also be processed if this is essential for the conduct of ongoing criminal proceedings or the data subject consents to the processing.

(4) The German Financial Intelligence Unit reviews, when dealing with individual cases and within defined time limits, whether stored personal data must be rectified or deleted or if its processing must be restricted.

(5) The time limits begin on the day when the German Financial Intelligence Unit completes the operational analysis under section 30.

(6) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit takes reasonable steps to ensure that personal data which is inaccurate, incomplete or subject to restriction of processing is not transmitted. ²For this purpose it verifies, where feasible, the quality of the data prior to transmission. ³As far as possible, in all transmissions of personal data, it adds information enabling the recipient to assess the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the personal data.

(7) If the German Financial Intelligence Unit determines that it has transmitted personal data which is inaccurate, has to be deleted or is subject to restriction of processing, it notifies the data recipient of the rectification, deletion or restriction of processing if notification is necessary to protect legitimate interests of the data subject.

Footnotes

(+++ section 37 (3) sentences 2 to 3: for application see section 38 (4) +++)

Section 38 Rectification, restriction of processing and destruction of personal data which is neither processed by automated means nor stored in an automated file

(1) The German Financial Intelligence Unit records, in a suitable manner, if

1. it determines that personal data which is neither processed by automated means nor stored in an automated file is inaccurate, or
2. the accuracy of personal data which is neither processed by automated means nor stored in an automated file is contested by the data subject.

(2) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit restricts the processing of personal data which is neither processed by automated means nor stored in an automated file if it determines in an individual case that

1. without the restriction of processing, legitimate interests of the data subject would be adversely affected, and
2. the data is no longer necessary for the performance of functions.

²The processing of the personal data must also be restricted if an obligation to delete them exists under section 37 (2).

(3) The German Financial Intelligence Unit destroys the documents containing personal data in accordance with the provisions on the retention of files if these documents as a whole are no longer necessary for the German Financial Intelligence Unit to perform its functions.

(4) ¹Destruction does not take place if

1. there are indications that legitimate interests of the data subject would otherwise be adversely affected, or
2. the data is needed for ongoing research work.

²In these cases, the German Financial Intelligence Unit restricts the processing of the data and attaches a note of the restriction to the documents. ³Section 37 (3) sentences 2 and 3 apply to the restriction, with the necessary modifications.

(5) Instead of being destroyed under subsection (3), the documents are to be delivered to the competent archives, provided that these documents have a lasting value under section 3 of the Federal Archives Act (*Bundesarchivgesetz*) in the version promulgated on 6 January 1988 (Federal Law Gazette I, page 62), most recently amended by the Act of 13 March 1992 (Federal Law Gazette I, page 506), in the respective applicable version.

(6) In the case that data have been transmitted which is inaccurate, has to be deleted or is subject to restriction of processing, section 37 (7) applies, with the necessary modifications.

Section 39 Order opening a file

(1) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit issues, for every automated file containing personal data it maintains for the performance of its functions, an order opening the file. ²The opening order requires the consent of the Federal Ministry of Finance. ³Prior to an opening order being issued, the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (*Bundesbeauftragter für den Datenschutz und die Informationsfreiheit*) must be heard.

(2) ¹The order opening the file must set out:

1. the name of the file,
2. the legal basis and the processing purpose,
3. the group of persons about whom data is stored,
4. the type of personal data to be stored,
5. the types of personal data serving to render the file accessible,
6. the supply or input of the data to be stored,
7. the conditions under which personal data stored in the file may be transmitted, the recipients to whom they may be transmitted and the procedure to be followed,
8. the time limits for review of the stored data and the period for which it is stored,
9. the logging system.

²The time limits for the review of the stored data may not exceed five years. ³They are based on the purpose of the storage and the type and importance of the matter; distinctions must be made based on the purpose of the storage and the type and importance of the matter.

(3) ¹If, in view of the urgency with which the German Financial Intelligence Unit must perform its functions, it is not possible for the authorities specified in subsection (1) to be consulted, the Central Customs Authority (*Generalzolldirektion*) may issue an urgent order. ²At the same time, the Central Customs Authority notifies the Federal Ministry of Finance and submits the urgent order to it. ³The procedure under subsection (1) must subsequently take place without delay.

(4) The necessity of further maintaining or amending the order opening the file must be reviewed at suitable intervals.

Section 40 Urgent measures

(1) ¹If the German Financial Intelligence Unit has indications that a transaction is related to money laundering or terrorist financing, or if it receives a report under Article 23(2) of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 of 30 August 2017 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, it may prohibit the execution of the transaction in order to investigate the indications and analyse the transaction. ²It may also, subject to the conditions set out in sentence 1,

1. prohibit an obliged entity under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 from
 - a) executing dispositions in relation to an account or securities account held with it, and
 - b) executing other financial transactions,
2. instruct an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 1 to deny access to a safety deposit box to the contracting party and all other persons with a right of disposal, or
3. issue other orders to an obliged entity in relation to a transaction.

(2) ¹Measures under subsection (1) may be taken by the German Financial Intelligence Unit on the basis of a request from a Financial Intelligence Unit of another country. ²A request is required to contain the information specified in section 35 (3). ³The German Financial Intelligence Unit should set out appropriately the reasons for rejecting a request.

(3) Measures under subsection (1) are rescinded by the German Financial Intelligence Unit as soon as or insofar as the conditions for the measures are no longer met.

(4) Measures under subsection (1) end

1. no later than one month following the ordering of the measures by the German Financial Intelligence Unit,
2. at the end of the fifth working day after the matter was passed on to the competent law enforcement agency; Saturday is not to be treated as a working day, or
3. at an earlier date if such a date has been determined by the German Financial Intelligence Unit.

(5) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may release property which is subject to a measure under subsection (1), sentence 2, at the request of the person concerned or an association without legal capacity, insofar as this property serves one of the following purposes:

1. the covering of the basic needs of the person or the person's family members,
2. the payment of pensions or maintenance, or
3. comparable purposes.

(6) ¹The obliged entity or another adversely affected party may lodge an objection to measures under subsection (1). ²The objection has no suspensory effect.

Section 41 Feedback to reporting obliged entities

(1) The German Financial Intelligence Unit confirms without delay to the obliged entity which has filed a report under section 43 (1) by means of electronic data transmission that its report has been received.

(2) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit sends the obliged entity feedback on the relevance of its report within an appropriate period. ²The obliged entity may only use personal data obtained in this way to improve its risk management, its fulfilment of its due diligence requirements and its reporting behaviour. ³It is required to delete this data when it is no longer required for the purpose in question, and after one year at the latest.

Section 42 Notification by domestic public authorities to the German Financial Intelligence Unit

(1) ¹In criminal proceedings in which the German Financial Intelligence Unit has disclosed information, the competent public prosecution office notifies the German Financial Intelligence Unit of the commencement of public prosecution and the outcome of the proceedings, including all decisions to terminate proceedings. ²The

notification is effected by sending a copy of the indictment, the reasoned decision to terminate proceedings, or the verdict.

(2) ¹If the German Financial Intelligence Unit discloses information to other domestic public authorities, the receiving authority notifies the German Financial Intelligence Unit of the final use made of the information provided and of the outcome of the measures taken on the basis of the information provided, insofar as other legal provisions do not preclude notification. ²Section 30 (1) of the Tax Code does not preclude this.

Part 6 Obligations concerning the reporting of matters

Section 43 Reporting obligation of obliged entities, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) If facts exist which indicate that

1. an asset in connection with a business relationship, brokerage or transaction originates from a criminal offence that could constitute a predicate offence of money laundering,
2. a business transaction, other transaction or asset is related to terrorist financing, or
3. the contracting party has not fulfilled its obligation under section 11 (6), sentence 3 to disclose to the obliged entity whether it intends to establish, continue or conduct the business relationship or transaction on behalf of a beneficial owner,

the obliged entity is to report this matter, irrespective of the value of the property in question or the amount of the transaction involved, to the German Financial Intelligence Unit without delay.

(2) ¹By way of derogation from subsection (1), obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 and 12 are exempt from the reporting obligation if the reportable matter relates to information they received in the course of legal advice or legal representation activities. ²However, the reporting obligation continues to exist if the obliged entity knows that the contracting party has used or is using the legal representation for the purpose of money laundering or terrorist financing or another criminal offence, or a case referred to in subsection (6) applies.

(3) A member of the senior management of an obliged entity is to file a report under subsection (1) with the German Financial Intelligence Unit if

1. the obliged entity operates an establishment in Germany, and
2. the reportable matter is related to an activity of the German establishment.

(4) ¹If a matter reported to the German Financial Intelligence Unit under subsection (1) also contains the information necessary for a criminal complaint in accordance with section 261 (9) sentence 1 of the Criminal Code, the report is also deemed to be voluntary self-incrimination within the meaning of section 261 (9) sentence 1 of the Criminal Code. ²The reporting obligation under subsection (1) does not preclude the report from being voluntary under section 261 (9) sentence 1 of the Criminal Code.

(5) The German Financial Intelligence Unit may, in agreement with the supervisory authorities, define types of transactions which are always to be reported under subsection (1).

(6) In consultation with the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Finance may, by way of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the *Bundesrat*, determine matters related to acquisition transactions under section 1 of the Real Estate Transfer Tax Act that must always be reported in accordance with subsection (1) by obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 and 12.

Section 44 Reporting obligation of supervisory authorities

(1) If facts exist which indicate that property is related to money laundering or terrorist financing, the supervisory authority reports these facts to the German Financial Intelligence Unit without delay.

(2) Subsection (1) applies, with the necessary modifications, to authorities responsible for supervision of the stock, foreign exchange and financial derivatives markets.

Section 45 Form of reporting, registration requirement, performance by third parties, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) ¹The report under section 43 (1) or section 44 must be filed electronically. ²Obligated entities under section 2 (1) must register electronically with the German Financial Intelligence Unit irrespective of the submission of a suspicious transaction report. ³If electronic data transmission is disrupted, transmission by post is permissible. ⁴Due to the special need for a uniform data transmission procedure, reports under section 44 are also obligatory for the supervisory authorities of the *Länder*.

(2) ¹To avoid undue hardship, the German Financial Intelligence Unit may, upon request, waive the requirement for the electronic transmission of a report by an obliged entity and authorise transmission by post. ²The exemption may be granted for a limited period.

(3) The official form must be used for transmission by post.

(4) When meeting the reporting obligation under section 43 (1), an obliged entity can use third parties in line with section 6 (7).

(5) ¹The Federal Ministry of Finance may, by means of a statutory instrument not requiring the consent of the Bundesrat, enact more detailed provisions concerning the form of reporting under section 43 (1) or section 44. ²No derogations from subsection (1) or the provisions of any regulation under sentence 1 by means of the law of the *Länder* are permissible.

Section 46 Carrying out of transactions

(1) ¹A transaction about which a report has been filed under section 43 (1) may be executed at the earliest when

1. the German Financial Intelligence Unit or the public prosecution office has informed the obliged entity that it consents to the execution, or
2. the third working day has elapsed after the day on which the report was sent without the execution of the transaction having been prohibited by the German Financial Intelligence Unit or the public prosecution office.

²Saturday is not to be treated as a working day in the calculation of the time limit.

(2) ¹If it is impossible to postpone the transaction where facts exist which indicate a matter under section 43 (1), or if postponement could frustrate proceedings in relation to a suspected criminal offence, the execution of the transaction is permitted. ²The report under section 43 (1) is to be filed subsequently by the obliged entity without delay.

Section 47 Prohibition of disclosure, power to issue statutory instruments

(1) An obliged entity must not inform the contracting party, the instructing party of the transaction or other third parties of

1. the intended filing or filing of a report under section 43 (1),
2. an investigation launched on the basis of a report under section 43 (1), or
3. a demand for information under section 30 (3), sentence 1.

(2) ¹The prohibition does not apply to disclosure

1. to government agencies,
2. between obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 that belong to the same group,
3. between obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 that are parent companies under

section 9 (1) and their branches and group companies in accordance with section 1 (16) no. 2 located in third countries and subject to obligations under anti-moneylaundering and counter terrorist financing law in those countries, insofar as they have effectively implemented the measures under section 9 (1) sentence 2 nos. 1, 3 and 4,

4. between obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 to 12 from member states of the European Union or from third countries which impose requirements regarding a system to prevent moneylaundering and terrorist financing equivalent to those laid down in Directive (EU) 2015/849, provided that the persons concerned perform their professional activities
 - a) by means of self-employment,
 - b) as employees within the same legal person, or
 - c) as employees within a structure which shares common ownership, management or compliance monitoring in relation to requirements to prevent moneylaundering or terrorist financing,
5. between obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 in cases which relate to the same contracting party and the same transaction involving two or more obliged entities, if
 - a) the obliged entities are domiciled in a member state of the European Union or in a third country which imposes requirements regarding a system to prevent moneylaundering and terrorist financing equivalent to those laid down in Directive (EU) 2015/849,
 - b) the obliged entities are from the same professional category, and
 - c) the obliged entities are subject to comparable obligations as regards professional secrecy and personal data protection.

²Information disclosed under sentence 1, nos. 2 to 5, may be used solely for the purpose of preventing money laundering or terrorist financing.

(3) ¹Unless otherwise regulated in this Act or other laws, government agencies other than the German Financial Intelligence Unit which have gained knowledge of a report filed under section 43 (1) must not disclose this information to

1. the contracting party of the obliged entity,
2. the instructing party of the transaction,
3. the beneficial owner,
4. a person used as a representative or messenger by one of the persons specified in nos. 1 to 3, or
5. the legal advisor engaged by one of the persons specified in nos. 1 to 4 above.

²Disclosure of this information to these persons is only permissible if the German Financial Intelligence Unit has issued its prior consent and disclosure of this information does not change the original purpose of the suspicious transaction report.

(4) If obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 to 12 seek to dissuade a client from engaging in illegal activity, this does not constitute disclosure.

(5) ¹Obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 9 may provide each other with information other than that specified in subsection (1) about specific matters which involve abnormalities or unusual circumstances indicating moneylaundering, one of its predicate offences or terrorist financing, if they can assume that other obliged entities require this information for

1. the risk assessment of a corresponding or similar transaction or business relationship, or
2. the assessment of whether a report under section 43 (1) or a criminal complaint under section 158 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (*Strafprozessordnung*) should be filed.

²The information may also be provided using databases, irrespective of whether these databases are operated by the obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 9 themselves or by third parties. ³The information provided may be used solely for the purpose of preventing moneylaundering, its predicate offences or terrorist financing and only subject to the conditions imposed by the obliged entity providing the information.

(6) The Federal Ministry of Finance may, in consultation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, by means of a regulation not requiring the consent of the Bundesrat, enact further provisions prohibiting the disclosure of information with regard to obliged entities from high-risk third countries under Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2015/849.

Section 48 Exemption from liability

(1) Whosoever files a report under section 43 (1) or a criminal complaint under section 158 of the Code of Criminal Procedure must not be held liable for this report or criminal complaint unless a false report or criminal complaint has been filed with wilful intent or gross negligence.

(2) Subsection (1) above also applies if

1. an employee reports a matter under section 43 (1) to their superior or to an in-house body responsible for the receipt of such a report, and
2. an obliged entity or one of its employees complies with a demand for information from the German Financial Intelligence Unit under section 30 (3), sentence 1.

Section 49 Access to information and protection of reporting employees

(1) ¹If the analysis of a matter reported under section 43 is not yet complete, the German Financial Intelligence Unit may, upon request, provide the person concerned with details of the available information concerning them if this will not interfere with the purpose of the analysis. ²If it provides details to the person concerned, it redacts the personal data of the individual who filed the report under section 43 (1).

(2) ¹If the analysis of a matter reported under section 43 is complete but has not been transmitted to the law enforcement agency, the German Financial Intelligence Unit may, at the request of the person concerned, provide details of the available information concerning them. ²It refuses to provide such details if this information becoming known would have negative effects on

1. international relations,
2. matters concerning the internal or external security of the Federal Republic of Germany,
3. the conduct of another criminal investigation, or
4. the conduct of ongoing judicial proceedings.

³When providing details, it redacts the personal data of the individual who has filed a report under section 43 (1) or complied with a demand for information from the German Financial Intelligence Unit. ⁴At the request of the person concerned, it may permit exceptions to sentence 3, if legitimate interests of the person concerned are overriding.

(3) ¹The German Financial Intelligence Unit is no longer authorised to provide details to the person concerned once it has passed the matter in question on to the law enforcement agency. ²Once proceedings by the public prosecution office or the court have been completed, the German Financial Intelligence Unit is again authorised to provide details to the person concerned. ³In this case, subsection (2) applies, with the necessary modifications.

(4) If the person who has filed a report under section 43 (1) or reported such a matter internally to the obliged entity is employed by the obliged entity, this person may not suffer any discrimination in their employment relationship as a result of the report.

(5) ¹Any person who suffers discrimination in connection with their employment relationship, contrary to the ban on discrimination in subsection (4), because of the submission of a report under section 43 (1) or because of an internal report of such a matter to the obliged entity, is entitled to file a complaint with the competent supervisory authority under section 50. ²The complaint procedure does not affect recourse to the courts. ³The complainant is able to use the supervisory authority's confidential information system under section 53 (1) sentence 2 to submit the complaint under sentence 1.

Part 7 Supervision, cooperation, administrative fine provisions, data protection

Section 50 Competent supervisory authority

The competent supervisory authority for the enforcement of this Act is:

1. the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority for
 - a) credit institutions with the exception of the Deutsche Bundesbank,
 - b) financial services institutions and payment institutions under section 1 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 of the Payment Services Supervision Act and electronic money institutions under section 1 (2) sentence 1 no. 1 of the Payment Services Supervision Act,
 - c) domestic branches and branch offices of credit institutions whose registered office is situated outside Germany, financial services institutions whose registered office is situated outside Germany and payment institutions whose registered office is situated outside Germany,
 - d) asset management companies within the meaning of section 17 (1) of the Investment Code,
 - e) domestic branch offices of EU management companies within the meaning of section 1 (17) of the Investment Code and of foreign AIF management companies as defined in section 1 (18) of the Investment Code,
 - f) foreign AIF management companies for which the Federal Republic of Germany is the member state of reference and which are subject to supervision by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority under section 57 (1) sentence 3 of the Investment Code,
 - g) payment institutions and electronic money institutions whose registered office is in another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, agents and electronic money agents under section 2 (1) no. 4,
 - h) companies and persons under section 2 (1) no. 5 and
 - i) the KfW Banking Group (*Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*),
2. for insurance undertakings under section 2 (1) no. 7, the respective competent supervisory authority for the insurance sector,
3. for lawyers and legal advisors who are members of a bar association under section 2 (1) no. 10, the competent local chamber of lawyers (sections 60, 61 and 163 (4) of the Federal Lawyers' Act (*Bundesrechtsanwaltsordnung*)),
4. for patent attorneys under section 2 (1) no. 10, the Chamber of Patent Attorneys (section 53 of the Patent Attorneys Act (*Patentanwaltsordnung*)),
5. for notaries under section 2 (1) no. 10, the respective President of the Regional Court in whose jurisdiction the notary is domiciled (section 92 no. 1 of the Federal Notaries' Act (*Bundesnotarordnung*)),
6. for public auditors and sworn auditors under section 2 (1) no. 12, the Chamber of Public Accountants (section 57 (2) no. 17 of the Public Accountants Act (*Wirtschaftsprüferordnung*))
7. for tax advisors and authorised tax agents under section 2 (1) no. 12, the competent local chamber of tax advisors (section 76 of the Tax Advisory Act (*Steuerberatungsgesetz*)),
- 7a. for associations under section 4 no. 11 of the Tax Advisory Act, the authority responsible for supervision under section 27 of the Tax Advisory Act,
8. for organisers and brokers of games of chance under section 2 (1) no. 15, the authority responsible for gambling supervision, unless provided otherwise under *Land* law and
9. for all others: the authority responsible under Federal or *Land* law.

Section 51 Supervision

(1) The supervisory authorities exercise supervision over the obliged entities.

(2) ¹The supervisory authorities may, as part of the functions assigned to them by law, take the appropriate and necessary measures and issue orders to ensure compliance with the requirements stipulated under this Act and under regulations adopted on the basis of this Act. ²In particular, the supervisory authorities can ensure in this context by means of necessary measures and orders that the obliged entities comply with these requirements, including on a case-by-case basis, and do not establish or continue business relations or carry out transactions contrary to these requirements. ³To this end, they may also exercise the powers granted to them for other supervisory functions. ⁴Objections to and actions for annulment of these measures have no suspensory effect.

(3) ¹The supervisory authority under section 50 no. 1, if its supervisory activity concerns the obliged entities specified in section 50 no. 1 (g) and (h), and the supervisory authorities under section 50 nos. 3 to 9 may conduct inspections at the obliged entities to review compliance with the requirements laid down in this Act. ²The inspections may be conducted without a specific reason on-site and elsewhere. ³The supervisory authorities may delegate the conduct of the inspections to other persons and institutions by contract. ⁴The frequency and intensity of the inspections must be based on the risk profile of the obliged entities with regard to money laundering and terrorist financing; this risk profile is to be re-evaluated at regular intervals and when important events or developments occur in relation to the obliged entity's senior management and business activity.

(4) The supervisory authority under section 50 nos. 8 and 9 may charge costs for the measures and orders pursuant to this provision in order to cover the administrative expenses.

(5) ¹The supervisory authority under section 50 no. 1, if its supervisory activity concerns the obliged entities specified in section 50 no. 1 (g) and (h), and the supervisory authorities under section 50 nos. 3 to 9 may temporarily prohibit an obliged entity whose activity requires a licence, which has been granted by the supervisory authority, from conducting the business or practising the profession, or revoke the licence if the obliged entity, wilfully or negligently,

1. has contravened the provisions of this Act, regulations adopted to implement this Act or orders issued by the competent supervisory authority,
2. continues such conduct despite a caution from the competent supervisory authority and
3. the contravention is sustained.

²Where a member of senior management or another employee of an obliged entity has, wilfully or negligently, committed a contravention under sentence 1, the supervisory authority under section 50 no. 1, if its supervisory activity concerns the obliged entities specified in section 50 no. 1 (g) and (h), and the supervisory authorities under section 50 nos. 3 to 9 may impose on the contravener a temporary prohibition on occupying a senior management position with obliged entities under section 2 (1). ³In the event that the supervisory authority is not the authority that issued the obliged entity with a licence for conducting its activity, the authority that issued the licence performs the procedure in accordance with sentence 1 or 2 at the request of the supervisory authority that has established that a contravention under sentence 1 has been committed.

(5a) ¹If the authority responsible for supervising an obliged entity under section 50 no. 1 (g) and (h) is an authority in another member state of the European Union or another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, the supervisory authority under section 50 no. 1 can, if the foreign authority does not itself take measures or if the measures it has taken prove to be inadequate and an immediate remedy is required, take the measures necessary to remedy a serious infringement after informing the foreign competent authority. ²Where necessary, it can prohibit new transactions from being carried out in Germany. ³In urgent cases, the supervisory authority under section 50 no. 1 may take the necessary measures before the notification. ⁴The measures must be temporary and appropriate with regard to their intended purpose, namely to address serious infringements of the requirements of this Act, regulations enacted in order to enforce this Act or orders by the competent supervisory authorities. ⁵They must be terminated when the identified serious infringements have been addressed. ⁶In urgent cases referred to in sentence 3, the foreign authority must be notified about the measures taken without undue delay.

(5b) ¹Obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 13 must register with the supervisory authority, stating their specific activity, unless they are already subject to application, registration, licence or authorisation requirements under other provisions. ²Insofar as there is no authorisation to do so under other provisions, the

supervisory authority can dismiss members of the obliged entity's senior and executive management if there is evidence justifying the assumption that they are not fit and proper persons.³ If there is evidence justifying the assumption that the beneficial owner is not a fit and proper person, the supervisory authority may ban obliged entities from providing the service under section 2 (1) no. 13.⁴ Subsection (5) sentences 1 and 2 apply, with the necessary modifications.

(6) In addition, the competent supervisory authority under section 50 no. 9 exercises the supervision delegated to it under Article 55(1) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1031/2010 of 12 November 2010 on the timing, administration and other aspects of auctioning of greenhouse gas emission allowances pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowances trading within the Community (OJ L 302 of 18 November 2010, page 1).

(7) The competent supervisory authority for obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 15 under section 50 nos. 8 and 9 may, for the performance of its functions, request information in individual cases from an obliged entity under section 2 (1) no. 1 or no. 3 on payment accounts as defined in section 1 (3) of the Payment Services Supervision Act and on payment transactions

1. of organisers and brokers of online games of chance, irrespective of whether they are in possession of a gambling licence and
2. of a player executed through such accounts.

(8)¹ The supervisory authority regularly provides the obliged entity with up-to-date interpretation and application guidance on implementing the due diligence requirements and the internal safeguards in accordance with the legal provisions for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing.² It may also fulfil this obligation by approving such guidance compiled by associations of obliged entities.

(9)¹ To document their supervisory activity, the supervisory authorities are to retain the following data in the form of statistics:

1. data on the supervisory activity per calendar year, in particular:
 - a) the number, measured in full-time equivalents, of persons employed in the supervisory authority who are entrusted with supervising the obliged entities under section 2 (1);
 - b) the number of on-site inspections and other inspection measures taken, broken down according to the obliged entities under section 2 (1) that they concerned;
 - c) the number of measures under letter (b) in which the supervisory authority found a breach of duties under this Act or to a regulation adopted on the basis of this Act, as well as the number of cases in which the supervisory authority gained knowledge of such a breach by other means, and
 - d) the nature and extent of legally binding measures taken by the supervisory and administrative authority in response; this includes the number
 - aa) of cautions issued,
 - bb) of fines imposed, including the respective amount, broken down according to whether, and to what extent, a publication under section 57 was made,
 - cc) of orders for the removal of money laundering officer or members of senior management,
 - dd) of withdrawals of licences ordered,
 - ee) of other measures taken;
 - e) the nature and extent of measures taken to inform the obliged entities under section 2 (1) of the due diligence requirements and internal safeguards that they are required to comply with;
2. the number of suspicious transaction reports pursuant to section 44 filed by the supervisory authority per calendar year, broken down according to the obliged entities under section 2 (1) that they concerned.

²The supervisory authorities are required to transmit the data specified in sentence 1 to the Federal Ministry of Finance in electronic form, giving the state of affairs on 31 December of the year in question, by 31 March of the following year.³ The Federal Ministry of Finance and the German Financial Intelligence Unit can designate a common form for this purpose.⁴ The supervisory authorities notify their contact data, information about their area of responsibility and changes in the data to the German Financial Intelligence Unit without undue delay.

(10) ¹The competent supervisory authorities notify the Federal Ministry of Finance before ordering or applying the measures referred to in section 15 (5a). ²The Federal Ministry of Finance notifies the European Commission before the measures referred to in section 15 (5a) are ordered or applied by the competent supervisory authorities and about the enactment of a statutory instrument under section 15 (10) sentence 1 no 2.

Section 51a Processing of personal data by supervisory authorities

(1) The competent supervisory authorities under this Act are entitled to process personal data to the extent necessary to perform their statutory functions.

(2) ¹If the competent supervisory authorities under this Act process personal data in the course of a supervisory measure taken under this Act or on the basis of statutory instruments enacted under this Act, the data subjects do not enjoy the rights under Articles 15 to 18 and 20 to 22 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 to the extent that fulfilling the rights of the data subjects would jeopardise the following:

1. the purpose of the measure,
2. the stability of the financial markets of the Federal Republic of Germany or of one or more signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area,
3. any other important objective of general public interest in the Federal Republic of Germany or one or more signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, in particular an important economic or financial interest, or
4. the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including protection and defence against dangers to public safety.

²Under these conditions, the competent supervisory authority is also exempted from the obligations under Articles 12 to 14, 19 and 34 and the transparency requirements under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

³Sentences 1 and 2 apply, with the necessary modifications, to persons and institutions that the competent supervisory authority uses to perform its functions, and to the registrar entity.

(3) The data subject must be informed about the lifting of the restriction, unless this is prejudicial to the purpose of the restriction.

(4) ¹If no information is provided to the data subject in the cases set out in subsection (2) sentences 1 to 3, it must be provided to the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information or the supervisory authority responsible for data protection under *Land* law, depending on responsibility, if requested by the data subject, unless it is established on a case-by-case basis that this would endanger public safety at the federal or *Land* level, or would jeopardise the stability and integrity of the financial markets. ²The notification by the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information or the supervisory authority responsible for data protection under *Land* law to the data subject about the outcome of the data protection examination may not allow any conclusions to be drawn about the state of knowledge of the competent supervisory authority and of the persons and institutions the competent supervisory authority uses to perform its functions, insofar as they do not consent to any additional information.

Section 52 Cooperation obligations

(1) ¹An obliged entity, the members of its governing bodies and its employees are to provide the supervisory authority responsible under section 50 no. 1, if its supervisory activity concerns the obliged entities specified in section 50 no. 1 letters (g) and (h); the supervisory authority responsible under section 50 nos. 3 to 9; and the persons and institutions used by these supervisory authorities in the performance of their functions, upon request and free of charge, with

1. information about all business affairs and transactions and
2. documents

which are relevant to compliance with the provisions laid down in this Act. ²In the context of its obligation under sentence 1 no. 2, the obliged entity must provide the authority with the documents to be submitted in the form of originals or copies, or electronically in digital form or on a digital storage medium.

(2) In inspections under section 51 (3), officials of the supervisory authority and other persons used by the competent supervisory authority in conducting its inspections may enter and inspect the premises of the obliged entity during usual hours of operation and business hours.

(3) Those concerned must tolerate the measures described in subsection (2).

(4) The person required to provide information may refuse to do so in response to any questions, the answering of which would make them or one of their relatives as specified in section 383 (1) nos. 1 to 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*) liable to criminal prosecution or proceedings under the Act on Administrative Offences (*Gesetz über Ordnungswidrigkeiten*).

(5) ¹Obligated entities under section 2 (1) nos. 10 and 12 may also refuse to answer questions if these questions relate to information they obtained in the context of providing legal advice to, or legal representation for, the contracting party. ²The obligation to provide information continues to exist if the obliged entity knows that their client has used or is using its legal advice for the purpose of money laundering or terrorist financing.

(6) ¹Persons who, by virtue of their business activities, assume on the basis of facts that they are obliged entities under section 2 (1), must provide the competent supervisory authority under section 50 on request and without charge with information about all business matters and must submit all documents necessary for establishing whether they are obliged entities. ²Subsection (2) sentences 1 and 2 as well as subsections (4) and (5) apply, with the necessary modifications.

Section 53 Reports of contraventions

(1) ¹The supervisory authorities are required to establish a system for receiving reports of potential or actual contraventions of this Act, statutory instruments adopted on the basis of this Act and other provisions intended to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing which the supervisory authority has the function of ensuring compliance with or punishing contraventions of. ²The system must enable reports to be submitted via a protected communication channel. ³The reports may be filed anonymously.

(2) The supervisory authorities are entitled to process personal data for this purpose, to the extent necessary to perform their functions.

(3) ¹The supervisory authorities only disclose the identity of a person who has filed a report if they have previously obtained the explicit approval of the person. ²They do not reveal the identity of a person who is the subject of a report. ³Sentences 1 and 2 do not apply if

1. the disclosure of information is necessary in the context of further investigations or of subsequent administrative or judicial proceedings on the basis of an Act or
2. it is ordered by a court decision or in judicial proceedings that the information be revealed.

(4) The Freedom of Information Act (*Informationsfreiheitsgesetz*) does not apply to cases under this provision.

(5) ¹Staff employed by companies or persons that are subject to the supervision of the competent supervisory authorities under subsection (1) or by other companies or persons to which activities have been outsourced by supervised companies or persons and who file a report under subsection (1) must not be held liable, either by provisions of labour law or by provisions of criminal law, nor must they be held liable for damages or otherwise discriminated against. ²Sentence 1 does not apply if a false report has been filed with wilful intent or gross negligence.

(5a) ¹Staff within the meaning of subsection (5) who suffer discrimination in connection with their employment relationship, contrary to the ban on discrimination in subsection (5), because they have submitted a report in accordance with subsection (1) are entitled to file a complaint with the competent supervisory authority. ²The complaint procedure does not affect recourse to the courts. ³The complainant is able to use the protected communication channel under subsection (1) sentence 2 to submit the complaint under sentence 1.

(6) ¹The right to file reports under subsection (1) must not be contractually restricted for staff who are employed by

1. companies or persons who are subject to supervision by the supervisory authorities under subsection (1) or

2. other companies or persons to whom activities of supervised companies or persons have been outsourced.

²Agreements conflicting with the above are invalid.

(7) Establishing and maintaining the system for receiving reports of contraventions does not affect the rights of a person who is the subject of a report, in particular the rights specified in

1. sections 28 and 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*),
2. sections 68 to 71 of the Rules of the Administrative Courts (*Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung*) and
3. sections 137, 140, 141 and 147 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Section 54 Duty of confidentiality

(1) ¹Insofar as persons employed by the competent supervisory authorities under section 50 or working for those supervisory authorities perform functions under section 51 (1), they must not, without authorisation, reveal or utilise facts that have come to their knowledge in the course of their activity if keeping these facts, in particular business and trade secrets, confidential is in the interest of an obliged entity or a third party subject to their supervision. ²Sentence 1 also applies when they are no longer on duty or when their employment has ended. ³The legal provisions concerning data protection to be observed by the obliged entities subject to supervision remain unaffected.

(2) Subsection (1) also applies to other persons who, through reporting in an official capacity, gain knowledge of the facts specified in subsection (1) sentence 1.

(3) Facts are not revealed or utilised without authorisation in particular if they are disclosed within the meaning of subsection (1), insofar as disclosure is not prohibited by other legal provisions,

1. in summary or aggregate form in such a way that individual obliged entities cannot be identified, or
2. to one of the following institutions, provided that these institutions need the information for the purpose of performing their functions:
 - a) to the law enforcement agencies, to the authorities and courts responsible for criminal cases and administrative fine proceedings,
 - b) to other institutions which, by law or in the public interest, are entrusted with investigating and preventing money laundering or terrorist financing or with the supervision of credit and financial institutions as defined in Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2015/849, as well as to persons acting on the instruction of these institutions,
 - c) to the European Central Bank, insofar as it is acting in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No. 1024/2013 of 15 October 2013 conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions,
 - d) to the Financial Intelligence Units as defined in Article 32(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 and
 - e) to other institutions which, by law or in the public interest, are entrusted with supervising the general risk management or compliance of obliged entities as well as to persons acting on the instruction of these institutions.

(4) ¹The facts within the meaning of subsection (1) may only be disclosed to one of the institutions referred to in subsection (3), if it is located in another country, or to a supranational institution, if the persons employed by this institution or acting on its behalf are subject to a duty of confidentiality that to a large extent corresponds to the duty of confidentiality laid out in subsections (1) to (3). ²The foreign or supranational institution must be advised by the disclosing institution that it may only use the facts for the purpose for which they have been transmitted. ³Facts originating from another country may only be disclosed

1. with the explicit approval of the competent authorities that notified these facts and
2. for purposes approved by the competent authorities.

Section 55 Cooperation with other authorities

(1) ¹To prevent and combat money laundering and terrorist financing, the supervisory authorities, in performing their functions under section 51, cooperate fully with each other and with the institutions specified in section 54 (3). ²In the context of this cooperation, the supervisory authorities are obliged to transmit to each other, ex officio and on request, information, including personal data and the results of inspections insofar as knowledge thereof is necessary for fulfilling the functions of the supervisory authorities under section 51. ³The competent supervisory authority transmits all information to the competent administrative authority ex officio on a case-by-case basis insofar as the information is necessary for the administrative authority to perform its functions. ⁴If there are indications of criminal offences, the administrative authorities notify the competence law enforcement agencies without undue delay.

(2) The authorities responsible under section 155 (2) of the Industrial Code in conjunction with the respective *Land* law under section 14 (1) of the Industrial Code transmit the data of the business registration under annexes 1 to 3 of the Regulation on Business Registration (*Gewerbearzeigenverordnung*) regarding obliged entities under section 2 (1) to the competent supervisory authorities under section 50 no. 9 free of charge on request, insofar as knowledge of these data is necessary for the performance of the supervisory authorities' functions under section 51.

(3) The register authorities specified in section 11a (1) of the Industrial Code transmits the data specified in section 6 of the Regulation on Financial Mediation (*Finanzanlagevermittlungsverordnung*) and in section 8 of the Regulation on Insurance Mediation (*Versicherungsvermittlungsverordnung*) to the competent supervisory authorities under section 50 no. 9 free of charge on request, insofar as knowledge of these data is necessary for the performance of the supervisory authorities' functions under section 51.

(4) Further-reaching powers of the supervisory authorities regarding the processing of personal data under other legal provisions remain unaffected.

(5) ¹In cross-border cases, the cooperating supervisory authorities and the institutions specified in section 54 (3) coordinate their measures. ²If an obliged party whose registered office is in another member state of the European Union has one or more branches or establishments in Germany, the supervisory authorities and institutions referred to in sentence 1 cooperate with the competent authorities of the member state in which the obliged entity has its head office.

(6) ¹Insofar as supervisory authorities supervise the obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9, they provide the following authorities, upon request, with all information necessary for the performance of their functions on the basis of Directive (EU) 2015/849 and Regulation (EU) No. 1093/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority), amending Decision No. 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/78/EC, Directive (EU) No. 1094/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority), amending Decision No. 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/79/EC and Directive (EU) No. 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority), amending Decision No. 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/77/EC:

1. the European Banking Authority,
2. the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority,
3. the European Securities and Markets Authority.

²The information must be made available in accordance with Article 35 of Directive (EU) No. 1093/2010, Article 35 of Directive (EU) No. 1094/2010 and Article 35 of Directive (EU) No. 1095/2010.

(7) The exchange of information with the competent supervisory authorities of other member states of the European Union is not precluded by:

1. a reference in the request to tax matters,
2. national law requiring the obliged entities to maintain secrecy or confidentiality, except in cases where
 - a) the relevant information to which the request refers is protected by legal privilege or
 - b) legal professional secrecy under section 43 (2) sentence 1 applies,

3. there is an inquiry, investigation or proceeding underway in the requested member state, unless the assistance would impede that inquiry, investigation or proceeding,
4. differences in the nature and status of the requesting and the requested authority.

(8) ¹The competent supervisory authorities under section 50 nos. 1 and 2 can conclude cooperation agreements providing for cooperation and the exchange of facts within the meaning of section 54 (1) with the competent authorities of third countries that constitute counterparts of those competent supervisory authorities. ²Such cooperation agreements must be concluded on the basis of reciprocity and only if it is ensured that the transmitted facts are at least subject to the requirements contained in section 54 (1). ³Facts transmitted according to those cooperation agreements must be used for the purpose of performing the supervisory functions of those authorities. ⁴Section 54 (4) applies, with the necessary modifications.

Section 56 Provisions relating to administrative fines

(1) ¹An administrative offence is deemed to be committed by anyone who wilfully or negligently:

1. in violation of section 5 (1) sentence 1, fails to determine or evaluate risks,
2. in violation of section 5 (2), fails to document or regularly review and, as appropriate, update the risk analysis,
3. in violation of section 6 (1), fails to implement appropriate business- and customer-oriented internal safeguards or, in violation of section 6 (1) sentence 3, fails to monitor the functionality of the safeguards or fails to update the business- and customer-oriented internal safeguards regularly or where necessary,
4. in violation of section 6 (4), fails to operate data processing systems or fails to update them,
5. fails to comply with an enforceable order under section 6 (9),
6. in violation of section 8 (1) and (2), fails to record or retain data, information, the results of the examination, the reasons considered or a plausible explanation of the evaluation result or fails to do so correctly or completely,
7. in violation of section 8 (4) sentence 1, fails to retain for five years a record or other evidence,
8. in violation of section 9 (1) sentence 2, including in conjunction with subsection (4), fails to devise consistent group-wide precautions, procedures and measures,
9. in violation of section 9 (1) sentence 3, including in conjunction with subsection (4), fails to ensure that the consistent group-wide obligations and measures are effectively implemented,
10. in violation of section 9 (2), including in conjunction with subsection (4), fails to ensure that group companies in accordance with section 1 (16) nos. 2 to 4 that are located in another member state of the European Union and are subject there to anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing obligations that comply with the applicable national legislation transposing Directive (EU) 2015/849,
11. in violation of section 9 (3) sentence 2, including in conjunction with section (4), fails to ensure that branches and group companies under section 1 (16) no. 2 located in a third country take additional measures to effectively counteract the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing, or fails to inform the competent supervisory authority under section 50 about the measures taken,
12. contravenes an enforceable order under section 9 (3) sentence 3, including in conjunction with subsection (4),
13. in violation of section 9 (5) sentence 1, fails to implement the measures referred to in subsection (1) sentence 2 nos. 1, 3 and 4,
14. in violation of section 9 (5) sentence 2, does not implement group-wide requirements,
15. in violation of section 10 (1) no. 1, fails to identify the contracting party or a person acting on their behalf correctly, completely or in the prescribed manner, or fails to check whether the person acting on behalf of the contracting party is entitled to do so,
16. in violation of section 10 (1) no. 2, fails to check whether the contracting party is acting on behalf of a beneficial owner,

17. in violation of section 10 (1) no. 2, fails to identify the beneficial owner,
18. in violation of section 10 (1) no. 3, fails to obtain information on the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship or fails to evaluate this information,
19. in violation of section 10 (1) no. 4, fails to establish whether the contracting party or the beneficial owner is a politically exposed person, a family member or a person known to be a close associate, or fails to do so correctly,
20. in violation of section 10 (1) no. 5, fails to continuously monitor the business relationship, including the transactions carried out in the course of the business relationship, or fails to do so correctly,
21. in violation of section 10 (2) sentence 1, fails to determine the specific extent of the due diligence measures in accordance with the respective risk of money laundering or terrorist financing,
22. in violation of section 10 (2) sentence 4 or in violation of section 14 (1) sentence 2, fails to demonstrate that the extent of the measures they have adopted is to be considered adequate based on the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing,
23. in violation of section 10 (6), fails to comply with due diligence requirements,
24. in violation of section 10 (8), fails to make a notification,
25. in violation of section 10 (9), section 14 (3) or section 15 (9) in conjunction with section 15(3) nos. 1, 3 and 4, establishes, continues or fails to terminate or otherwise end the business relationship or executes the transaction,
26. in violation of section 11 (1), fails to identify the contracting parties, persons acting on their behalf or beneficial owners in due time,
27. in violation of section 11 (2), fails to identify the parties to the contract in due time,
28. in violation of section 11 (3) sentence 2, fails to carry out a new identification,
29. in violation of section 11 (4) nos. 1 and 2, fails to collect the information or collects it incompletely,
30. in violation of section 11 (5) sentence 1, fails to establish the name of the beneficial owner in order to determine their identity,
31. in violation of section 14 (2) sentence 2, fails to ensure the scrutiny of transactions and business relationships to an extent that enables them to recognise and report unusual or suspicious transactions,
32. in violation of section 15 (2), fails to fulfil enhanced due diligence requirements,
33. in violation of section 15 (4) sentence 1 no. 1 in conjunction with subsection (2) or (3) no. 1, fails to obtain the approval of a member of senior management before establishing or continuing a business relationship,
34. in violation of section 15 (4) sentence 1 no. 2 in conjunction with subsection (2) or (3) no. 1, fails to take measures,
35. in violation of section 15 (4) sentence 1 no. 3 in conjunction with subsection (2) or (3) no. 1, fails to conduct enhanced, ongoing monitoring,
36. in violation of section 15 (5) no. 1 (a) to (f) in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 2, fails to gather information,
37. in violation of section 15 (5) no. 2 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 2, fails to obtain the approval of a member of senior management,
38. in violation of section 15 (5) no. 2 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 2, fails to conduct enhanced monitoring of the business relationship,
39. in violation of section 15 (6) no. 1 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 3, fails to examine the transaction,
40. in violation of section 15 (6) no. 2 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 3, fails to conduct enhanced, ongoing monitoring of the underlying business relationship,
41. in violation of section 15 (7) no. 1 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 4, fails to gather sufficient information,

42. in violation of section 15 (7) no. 2 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 4, fails to obtain the approval of a member of senior management,
43. in violation of section 15 (7) no. 3 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 4, fails to determine or document the responsibilities,
44. in violation of section 15 (7) no. 4 or no. 5 in conjunction with subsection (3) no. 4, fails to take measures,
45. in violation of section 15 (5a) and (8), contravenes an enforceable order of the supervisory authority,
46. in violation of section 16 (2), admits a player to an online game of chance,
47. in violation of section 16 (3), accepts deposits or other refundable monies,
48. in violation of section 16 (4), permits transactions of the player to the obliged entity through channels other than those specified in section 16 (4) nos. 1 and 2,
49. in violation of section 16 (5), fails to fulfil their notification obligations,
50. in violation of section 16 (7) sentence 1 no. 2, carries out transactions to a payment account,
51. in violation of section 16 (7) sentence 2, fails to sufficiently specify the payment reference despite a request from the supervisory authority,
52. in violation of section 16 (8) sentence 3, fails to carry out the full identification or fails to do so in due time,
53. in violation of section 17 (2), delegates the fulfilment of the due diligence requirements to a third party domiciled in a high-risk third country,
54. in violation of section 18 (3), fails to provide information or fails to do so in due time,
55. in violation of section 20 (1),
 - a) fails to obtain,
 - b) fails to retain, or fails to correctly or completely retain,
 - c) fails to keep up to date or
 - d) fails to notify the registrar entity, or fails to notify it correctly, completely or in due time of information on the beneficial owner.
56. in violation of section 20 (1a), fails to fulfil their notification obligation or fails to fulfil it correctly, completely or in due time,
57. without being authorised to do so by the association subject to a notification obligation, electronically notifies information on the beneficial owner to the registrar entity for entry into transparency register,
58. in violation of section 20 (3), fails to fulfil their notification obligation or fails to fulfil it correctly, completely or in due time,
59. in violation of section 20 (3a) sentences 1 to 3 or subsection (3b) sentence 1, fails to make a notification or fails to make it correctly, completely or in due time,
60. in violation of section 20 (3a) sentence 4, fails to fulfil their documentation obligation,
61. in violation of section 21 (1) or (2)
 - a) fails to obtain,
 - b) fails to retain, or fails to correctly or completely retain,
 - c) fails to keep up to date or
 - d) fails to notify the registrar entity, or fails to notify it correctly, completely or in due time of information on the beneficial owner.
62. in violation of section 21 (1a) or (1b), fails to fulfil their notification obligation or fails to fulfil it correctly, completely or in due time,
63. fails to correct an inaccurate notification under section 20 (1) or section 21 (1),

64. gains permission to inspect the transparency register contrary to section 23 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 or no. 3 under false pretences or unlawfully gains access to the transparency register in some other manner,
65. in violation of section 23a (1) sentence 1, fails to fulfil their notification obligation,
66. in violation of section 23a (3), fails as an obliged entity to provide information or documents or fails to do so in due time,
67. in violation of section 30 (3), fails to respond to a demand for information or fails to do so correctly, completely or in due time,
68. in violation of section 40 (1) sentence 1 or 2, fails to respond to an order or an instruction or fails to do so in due time or completely,
69. in violation of section 43 (1), fails to submit a report or fails to do so correctly, completely or in due time,
70. in violation of section 46 (2) sentence 2, fails to subsequently file the report without undue delay,
71. disregards a prohibition under section 51 (5),
72. fails to submit information under section 51 (7) or fails to do so correctly, completely or in due time,
73. in violation of section 52 (1) and (6),
 - a) fails to provide information, or fails to provide it correctly, completely or in due time,
 - b) fails to submit documents, or fails to provide them correctly, completely or in due time,
74. in violation of section 52 (3), fails to tolerate an inspection.

²If it is committed wilfully, the administrative offence is punishable by a fine not exceeding €150,000, in all other cases by a fine not exceeding €100,000.

(2) ¹An administrative offence is deemed to be committed by any person who wilfully or negligently

1. in violation of section 4 (3) sentence 1, fails to appoint a member of the management,
2. in violation of section 7 (1), fails to appoint a money laundering officer or a deputy,
3. fails to comply with an enforceable order under section 7 (3) or fails to do so in due time,
4. in violation of section 9 (1) sentence 2, including in conjunction with subsection (4), fails to appoint a group money laundering officer,
5. in violation of section 15 (9) in conjunction with section 15 (3) no. 2, establishes, continues or fails to terminate or otherwise end the business relationship or executes the transaction,
6. executes a transaction in violation of section 46 (1) sentence 1, or
7. in violation of section 47 (1) in conjunction with subsection (2), informs the contracting party, the instructing party or a third party,

²If it is committed wilfully, the administrative offence is punishable by a fine of up to €150,000, if it is committed negligently by a fine of up to €100,000, and in all other cases by a fine of up to €50,000.

(3) ¹An administrative offence under subsection (1) and, if committed wilfully or negligently, under subsection (2) is punishable by

1. a fine of up to €1 m or
2. a fine up to up to twice the economic benefit derived from the contravention,

if the contravention is serious, repeated or systematic. ²The economic benefit comprises profits gained and losses avoided and can be estimated. ³A fine higher than that stated in sentence 1 may be imposed on obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9 that are legal persons or associations. ⁴In these cases, the fine must not exceed the higher of the following amounts:

1. €5m or
2. 10 per cent of the total turnover recorded by the legal person or association in the financial year prior to the

authority's decision.

⁵A fine higher than that stated in sentence 1 of up to €5m may be imposed on obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9 that are natural persons.

(4) ¹Total turnover within the meaning of subsection (2) sentence 4 no. 2 is

1. in the case of credit institutions, payment institutions and financial services institutions within the meaning of section 340 of the Commercial Code, the total amount resulting from the national law applicable to the institution in accordance with Article 27 nos. 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 or Article 28 Part B nos. 1 to 4 and 7 of Council Directive 86/635/EEC of 8 December 1986 on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of banks and other financial institutions (OJ L 372 of 31 December 1986, page 1), net of value added tax and other taxes levied directly on this income,
2. in the case of insurance undertakings, the total amount resulting from the national law applicable to the insurance undertaking in accordance with Article 63 of Council Directive 91/674/EEC of 19 December 1991 on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings (OJ L 374 of 31 December 1991, page 7) net of value added tax and other taxes levied directly on this income,
3. in all other cases the amount of net turnover according to national law applicable to the company in accordance with Article 2 no. 5 of Directive 2013/34/EU.

²In cases where the legal person or the association is a parent company or a subsidiary, the respective total amount in the consolidated financial statements of the parent company for the largest number of companies is to be used rather than the total turnover of the legal person or the association. ³If the consolidated financial statements for the largest number of companies are not prepared in accordance with the provisions set out in sentence 1, the total turnover is calculated on the basis of the items of the consolidated financial statements that are equivalent to the items referred to in sentence 1 numbers 1 to 3. ⁴If annual financial statements or consolidated financial statements for the financial year in question are not available, the annual financial statements or consolidated financial statements of the most recent financial year must be used. ⁵If the annual financial statements or consolidated financial statements of the most recent financial year are also not available, the total turnover may be estimated.

(5) ¹The competent supervisory authority in each case under section 50 nos. 1 and 7a to 9 is also the administrative authority under section 36 (1) no. 1 of the Act on Administrative Offences. ²For administrative offences under subsection (1) sentence 1 nos. 54 to 66, the Federal Office of Administration is the administrative authority under section 36 (1) no. 1 of the Act on Administrative Offences.

(6) Unless it is also the competent supervisory authority, the competent administrative authority transmits on request all information, including personal data, to the competent supervisory authority, insofar as the information is necessary for the performance of the functions of the supervisory authority, in particular for the provision of statistics under section 51 (9).

(7) The supervisory authorities check in the Federal Central Criminal Register (*Bundeszentralregister*) whether the person concerned has relevant convictions.

(8) The competent supervisory authorities under section 50 nos. 1, 2 and 9 inform the respective competent European supervisory authority with regard to the obliged entities under section 2 (1) nos. 1 to 3 and 6 to 9 about

1. the fines imposed on these obliged entities,
2. other measures taken because of contraventions of provisions of this Act or of other acts intended to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing and
3. relevant appeal procedures and their outcomes.

Section 57 Publication of final and conclusive measures and of unappealable administrative fine decisions

(1) ¹The competent supervisory and administrative authorities and the authority under section 56 (5) sentence 2 are required to publish final and conclusive measures and unappealable administrative fine decisions imposed because of a contravention of this Act or of statutory instruments adopted on the basis of this Act on their websites once the addressee of the measure or administrative fine decision has been

informed.²This also applies to court decisions that are unappealable and that involve the imposition of an administrative fine.³The type and nature of the contravention as well as the natural persons or legal persons or associations responsible for the contravention must be stated in the publication.

(2) ¹The publication under subsection (1) must be delayed if publication

1. would impinge on the personality rights of natural persons or a publication of personal data would be disproportionate for other reasons,
2. would jeopardise the stability of the financial markets of the Federal Republic of Germany or of one or more signatory states to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or
3. would jeopardise an ongoing investigation.

²Instead of delaying publication, the information may be published on an anonymised basis if this guarantees an effective protection under sentence 1 no. 1. ³In cases where there are grounds for assuming that the reasons for an anonymised publication will no longer apply within the foreseeable future, the publication of the information may be delayed accordingly under sentence 1 no. 1. ⁴Publication takes place once the reasons for delay no longer apply.

(3) A publication must not occur if the measures under subsection (2) are not sufficient to eliminate a threat to the stability of the financial markets or to ensure the proportionality of the publication.

(4) ¹A publication must remain published on the website of the supervisory authority for five years. ²By way of derogation from sentence 1, personal data must be deleted as soon as its publication is no longer necessary.

Section 58 (Repealed)

Section 59 Transitional provisions

(1) Notifications under section 20 (1) and section 21 must be transmitted to the transparency register for the first time by 1 October 2017.

(2) ¹Access to the entries in the register of associations as provided for in section 22 (1) sentence 1 no. 8 is provided as from 26 June 2018. ²The technical requirements to transmit the index data under section 22 (2) which are needed for access to the original data under section 22 (1) sentence 1 no. 8 will be put in place by 25 June 2018. ³For the transitional period from 26 June 2017 to 25 June 2018, the transparency register instead contains a link to the common register portal of the *Länder*.

(3) Section 23 (1) to (3) enters into force on 27 December 2017.

(4) Exemptions granted by the supervisory authorities under section 50 no. 8 to obliged entities under section 2 (1) no. 15, to the extent that they operate or broker online games of chance, remain in force until 30 June 2018, by way of derogation from section 16.

If judicial proceedings concerning the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of suspected money laundering or terrorist financing were pending on 25 June 2015 or if an obliged entity possesses information or documents in connection with these pending proceedings, the obliged entity may retain this information or these documents until 25 June 2020.

(6) ¹The registration requirement under section 45 (1) sentence 2 arises when the new information network of the German Financial Intelligence Unit starts operating, but at the latest as from 1 January 2024. ²The Federal Ministry of Finance will announce the date on which the new information network of the German Financial Intelligence Unit will start operating in the Federal Law Gazette.

Annex 1 (to sections 5, 10, 14, 15) Factors indicating a potentially lower risk

(Source: Federal Gazette I 2017, page 1858)

The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors and types of evidence of potentially lower risk under section 14:

1. Customer risk factors:
 - a) public companies listed on a stock exchange and subject to disclosure requirements (either by stock exchange rules or through law or enforceable means), which impose requirements to ensure adequate transparency of beneficial ownership,
 - b) public administrations or companies,
 - c) customers that are resident in geographical areas of lower risk as set out in no. 3.
2. Product, service, transaction or delivery channel risk factors:
 - a) life insurance policies for which the premium is low,
 - b) insurance policies for pension schemes if there is no early surrender option and the policy cannot be used as collateral,
 - c) a pension, superannuation or similar scheme that provides retirement benefits to employees, where contributions are made by way of deduction from wages, and the scheme rules do not permit the assignment of a member's interest under the scheme,
 - d) financial products or services that provide appropriately defined and limited services to certain types of customers, so as to increase access for financial inclusion purposes,
 - e) products where the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing are managed by other factors such as purse limits or transparency of ownership (e.g. certain types of electronic money).
3. Geographical risk factors – registration, establishment, residence in:
 - a) member states,
 - b) third countries having effective systems for the prevention, detection and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing,
 - c) third countries identified by credible sources as having a low level of corruption or other criminal activity,
 - d) third countries which, on the basis of credible sources such as mutual evaluations, detailed assessment reports or published follow-up reports, have requirements to prevent, detect and combat money laundering and terrorist financing consistent with the revised FATF (Financial Action Task Force) Recommendations and effectively implement those requirements.

Annex 2 (to sections 5, 10, 14, 15)
Factors indicating a potentially higher risk

(Source: Federal Gazette I 2017, page 1859)

The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors and types of evidence of potentially higher risk under section 15:

1. Customer risk factors:
 - a) the business relationship is conducted in unusual circumstances,
 - b) customers that are resident in geographical areas of higher risk as set out in point (3),
 - c) legal persons or arrangements that are personal asset-holding vehicles,
 - d) companies that have nominee shareholders or shares in bearer form,
 - e) businesses that are cash-intensive,
 - f) the ownership structure of the company appears unusual or excessively complex given the nature of

the company's business,

- c) the customer is a third country national who applies for residence rights or citizenship in the Member State in exchange of capital transfers, purchase of property or government bonds, or investment in corporate entities in that Member State;
2. Product, service, transaction or delivery channel risk factors:
- a) private banking,
 - b) products or transactions that might favour anonymity,
 - c) non-face-to-face business relationships or transactions, without certain safeguards, such as electronic identification means, relevant trust services as defined in Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 or any other secure, remote or electronic, identification process regulated, recognised, approved or accepted by the relevant national authorities,
 - d) payment received from unknown or unassociated third parties,
 - e) new products and new business practices, including new delivery mechanisms, and the use of new or developing technologies for both new and pre-existing products,
 - f) transactions related to oil, arms, precious metals, tobacco products, cultural artefacts and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural and religious importance, or of rare scientific value, as well as ivory and protected species.
3. Geographical risk factors:
- a) without prejudice to Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2015/849, countries identified by credible sources (such as mutual evaluations, detailed assessment reports or published follow-up reports), as not having effective systems for the prevention, detection and combating of money laundering and terrorist financing,
 - b) countries identified by credible sources as having significant levels of corruption or other criminal activity,
 - c) countries subject to sanctions, embargos or similar measures issued by, for example, the European Union or the United Nations,
 - d) countries providing funding or support for terrorist activities, or that have designated terrorist organisations operating within their country.