

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference
University of Luxembourg
15 - 16 June 2015

Chasing criminal money in the EU: new tools and practices?

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On 15 and 16 June 2015 the University of Luxembourg is hosting a two-day international conference on asset recovery in the EU.

Recently, the fight against criminal gain has become a priority for national and international agendas. Today, it is generally accepted that criminal justice systems cannot be considered efficient if they do not trace and recover the proceeds of crime in order to allocate them either to victims or to the State.

“Asset recovery” is the main instrument of this effort. It consists of a complex process encompassing several phases: financial investigations, freezing and confiscation of assets, asset management, repatriation of assets and their redistribution. Each one of these interconnected stages poses delicate legal questions. Several international and EU instruments address specific aspects of this process; however, a coherent approach is still lacking: the implementation of the respective EU and international instruments is incomplete; national provisions on asset recovery are still too different; confiscation in practice is underutilised.

The objective of our conference is to contribute to the analysis of obstacles to efficient cross-border asset recovery in the EU. For this purpose, the conference aims to generate discussion with academics and practitioners from different EU and non-EU countries.

The conference will consist of four parts. The first session will be devoted to identifying the main challenges from a legal, political and historical point of view. Session II will focus on a number of key questions with respect to the scope of asset recovery. Session III will address issues related to the investigations on criminal assets. Finally, session IV will explore some aspects of the asset recovery process still neglected by the EU legislature.

Ph.D. students, post-doctoral researchers, young academics are invited to submit an abstract of up to 500 words and a CV by January 31st, 2014 to michele.simonato@uni.lu. Speakers will be informed of acceptance by February 28th. Full papers will be published in a peer reviewed collective volume.

We welcome papers focusing on topics related to the issues addressed during the seminar. In particular: economic analysis of asset recovery, policies and strategies on asset recovery, different types of confiscations and fundamental rights, procedural safeguards, international cooperation during the different phases of asset recovery.