

Mr W. B. Hoekstra
Minister of Finance

Amsterdam, 13 November 2017

Subject: Revision of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive

Dear Mr Hoekstra,

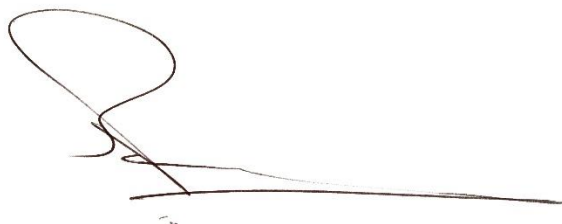
I am writing to you within the framework of the ongoing triologue negotiations on the revision of the fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive. The recent 'Paradise Papers' have demonstrated again the extent to which opaque offshore arrangements are misused for corruption, money laundering and tax evasion purposes. Transparency International has made an [inventory of the corruption cases](#) that have appeared in the Paradise Papers so far. We urgently need to end the secrecy surrounding the identity of those who ultimately owns or controls the assets. These practices are contributing to undermining our democracies and citizens' trust in our institutions.

The EU has a unique opportunity on Tuesday 14 November to clamp down on practices that foster secrecy and instability in the global financial system. As we are approaching the conclusion of the triologue negotiations, we call on your support to ensure that the new Anti-Money Laundering Directive provides for full public access to national central registers of beneficial owners of both companies and trusts. Moreover, it is essential that the scope of these registers is comprehensive enough to cover foreign (including offshore) companies and trusts operating, doing business or investing in the European Union. Only with full coverage and public access, can these registers be meaningful and useful in the fight against corruption and money laundering.

As triologue discussions are about to resume next week, we urge you to show strong support for enhancing financial transparency within the European Union.

We remain at your disposal if you would like to receive more information or would like to meet in person to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Vlaanderen
Chair Transparency International Nederland