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THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF MONEY LAUNDERING (REGISTER OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF CORPORATE AND OTHER LEGAL ENTITIES) DIRECTIVE OF 2021

(Published in Supplement III (I) to the Official Gazette of the Republic, No. 5449 of 12th March, 2021)

P.I. 317/2021

THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF MONEY LAUNDERING (REGISTER OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF CORPORATE AND OTHER LEGAL ENTITIES) (AMENDMENT) DIRECTIVE OF 2021

(Published in Supplement III (I) to the Official Gazette of the Republic, No.5568 of the 23rd July, 2021)

(English translation)

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NOTE FOR THE READER

The publication at hand by the Office of the Law Commissioner is an English translation of the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering (Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities) Directive of 2021 [P.I 112/2021] and the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering (Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities)(Amendment) Directive of 2021 [P.I 317/2021]

However useful the English translation of the Directives is in practice, it does not replace the original text of the Directives since only the text published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus is authentic.

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THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF MONEY LAUNDERING (REGISTER OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND OTHER LEGAL ENTITIES) DIRECTIVE OF 2021

188 (I) of 2007 p
58 (I) of 2010
80 (I) of 2012
192 (I) of 2012
101 (I) of 2013
184 (I) of 2014
18 (I) of 2016
13 (I) of 2018
158 (I) of 2018
81 (I) of 2019
13 (I) of 2021
22(I) of 2021
61(I) of 2021.

The Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver, in the exercise of the powers vested in him by section 61A of the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Law and for the purpose of harmonization with the European Union Directive with the title:

Official Journal of the EU: L 156, 19.6.2018, p.43.

"Directive 2018/843/EC 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 "

hereby issues the following Directive:

PART I PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Short Title.

1. This Directive may be cited as the Directive on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering (Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and other Legal Entitles) of 2021.

Interpretation.

2. (1) In this Directive, unless the context otherwise requires -

"ARIADNI" means the Government Gateway Portal operated by the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of the Republic of Cyprus as an electronic platform through which electronic services are provided to citizens and businesses;

"beneficial owner" shall have the meaning assigned to this term by Section 2 of the Law;

"Company" means a company limited by shares or a company limited by guarantee or a European Public Limited Liability Company incorporated or registered in accordance with the Companies Law;

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9 of 1968 76 of 1977 17 of 1979 105 of 1985 198 of 1986 19 of 1990 46 (I) of 1992 96 (I) of 1992 41 (I) of 1994 15 (I) of 1995 21 (I) of 1997 ANNOUN. 2331 82 (I) of 1999 149 (I) of 1999 2 (I) of 2000 135 (I) of 2000 151 (I) of 2000 76 (I) of 2001 70 (I) of 2003 167 (I) of 2003 92 (I) of 2004 24 (I) of 2005 129 (I) of 2005 130 (I) of 2005 98 (I) of 2006 124 (I) of 2006 70 (I) of 2007 71 (I) of 2007 131 (I) of 2007 186 (I) of 2007 87 (I) of 2008 41 (I) of 2009 49 (I) of 2009 99 (I) of 2009 42 (I) of 2010 60 (I) of 2010 88 (I) of 2010 53 (I) of 2011 117 (I) of 2011 145 (I) of 2011 157 (I) of 2011 198 (I) of 2011 64 (I) of 2012 98 (I) of 2012 190 (I) of 2012 203 (I) of 2012 6 (I) of 2013 90 (I) of 2013 74 (I) of 2014 75 (I) of 2014 18 (I) of 2015 62 (I) of 2015 63 (I) of 2015 89 (I) of 2015 120 (I) of 2015 40 (I) of 2016 90 (I) of 2016 97 (I) of 2016 17 (I) of 2017 33 (I) of 2017 51 (I) of 2017 37 (I) of 2018 83 (I) of 2018 149 (I) of 2018 163 (I) of 2019 38 (I) of 2020 43 (I) of 2020 191(I) of 2020 192(I) of 2020 43(I) of 2021 117(I) of 2021 150(I) of 2021 151(I)of 2021.

"electronic means" means that the initial dispatch and receipt of data at its destination is carried out by means of electronic equipment used for the processing (including digital compression) and storage of data, and that the data is transmitted, conveyed and received by wire or wireless means or by optical means or by other electromagnetic means."

"EU Directive" shall have the meaning assigned to this term by section 2 of the Law;

"Law" means the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Law;

"Law enforcement authorities" means the Cyprus Police, the Customs Department and the Taxation Department;

"Member of the general public" means any legal or natural person who is not a Supervisory Authority, a Law Enforcement Authority, a Unit or an Obliged Entity;

"Obliged entity" shall have the meaning assigned to this term by Section 2 of the Law;

"Officer" in relation to a legal person includes a director, managing director or secretary;

"Other legal entity" means a legal entity registered with the Registrar of Companies;

"Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities" means the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities provided for in Section 61A (4) of the Law

"Registrar of Companies" means the Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver and includes any other person appointed by the Council of Ministers to exercise all or any of the powers and perform all or any of the duties of the Registrar of Companies;

"Regulation (EU) 2016/679" shall have the meaning assigned to this term by Section 2 of the Law;

"Supervisory Authorities" has the meaning assigned to this term by Section 2 of the Law;

"Unit" shall have the meaning assigned to this term by section 2 of the Law;

Official Journal of the EU:L 119,4.5.2016,p.1.

(2) Any other terms used in this Directive and which are not otherwise defined, shall have the meaning assigned to them by the Law.

Exceptions to the scope of the Directive.

- 3. This Directive shall not apply to a corporate or other legal entity -
- (a) listed on a regulated market subject to disclosure requirements under European Union law; or
- (b) subject to equivalent international standards which ensure adequate transparency of proprietary information; or
- (c) for which, prior to the date of commencement of this Directive, an application by its directors has been submitted to the Registrar of Companies to strike it off, pursuant to Section 327 (2A) (a) of the Companies Law, or
- (d) the liquidation of which has begun before the date of commencement of this Directive.

PART II - OBLIGATIONS TO OBTAIN AND HOLD INFORMATION ON THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS

Obtaining and keeping information on the beneficial owners from corporate and other legal entities.

125 (I) of 2018.

- **4.** (1) Subject to the provisions on the Protection of Natural Persons Against the Processing of Personal Data and the Free Movement of such Data as well as Regulation (EU) 2016/679 applicable to this Directive, each corporate and other legal entity and each of its officers shall take all reasonable measures to obtain and store adequate, accurate and current information on the beneficial owners of the corporate and another legal entity, including:
- (a) the name, surname, date of birth, nationality and place of residence of each of its beneficial owners;
- (b) the nature and extent of the final ownership status held directly or indirectly by each beneficial owner, including through a percentage of shares, voting rights or significant personal influence, or the type and

extent of ultimate control exercised directly or indirectly by each beneficial owner;

- (c) the identity document number of the natural person, the type of document and the country of issuance of the document;
- (d) the date on which the natural person became the beneficial owner; and
- (e) the date on which the details of the natural person changed or on which he ceased to be the beneficial owner:

Provided that where after exhausting all possible means and provided that there are no reasonable suspicions, no natural person is identified as the beneficial owner or if there is a doubt whether the person identified is indeed the beneficial owner, the details under (a) to (e) above, of the natural person who holds the position of senior management executive shall be acquired and stored by the corporate and other legal entity.

- (2) The information referred to in subparagraph (1) shall be registered, maintained, stored and updated by the corporate and other legal entity and its officers at the registered office of the corporate or other legal entity.
- (3) Notwithstanding the criminal liability or prosecution of any person, in the event of failure to comply with any of the obligations referred to in subparagraphs (1) or (2), the corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers shall be subject to a fine of two hundred Euros (€ 200) and a further fine of one hundred Euros (€ 100) for each day of continuation of the violation with a maximum charge of twenty thousand Euros (€20,000):

Provided that an officer of a corporate or other legal entity shall not be subject to a fine if he had exercised due diligence to comply with the provisions of this paragraph and the violation is not due to any act or omission or negligence on his part. Notice to any natural person who is considered to be the beneficial owner.

- **5.** (1) The corporate or other legal entity shall send notice to any natural person who it has reasonable grounds to believe to be the beneficial owner.
- (2) The notice referred to in subparagraph (1) shall be in writing, signed by an officer of the corporate or other legal entity and sent to any natural person for whom there are reasonable grounds to believe that he is the beneficial owner, who is required to-
- (a) state whether or not he is the beneficial owner of the corporate or other legal entity; and
- (b) if he is, provide in writing or update the information referred to in paragraph 4 (1).
- (3) A notice under this paragraph shall state that:
- (a) it is provided under the Directive on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering (Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities), and
- (b) it shall invite the recipient to comply with the notice no later than within fifteen (15) days from the date of the notice.
- (4) A corporate or other legal entity shall not be required to send a notice under this paragraph where -
- (a) the corporate and other entity has been informed of the status of a natural person as beneficial owner and has been provided with all the information referred to in paragraph 4 (1); or

- (b) the information and details have already been provided to the corporate and another legal entity either by a member of the company or by such natural person or by any other person.
- (5) Any natural person who receives a notice under this paragraph, must comply no later than within fifteen (15) days from the date of the notice.

Obligation of beneficial owners to notify changes.

- 6. (1) This paragraph shall apply where -
- (a) a natural person is listed as the beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity;
- (b) a change is made in the sense that the natural person ceases to be the beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity or another change occurs as a result of which the information about beneficial owners held by the corporate or another legal entity in relation to the natural person pursuant to paragraph 4 (1) is incorrect or incomplete or has not been amended to reflect the change,
- (c) the natural person is aware of the change or should reasonably be aware of it, and
- (d) the natural person has not been notified by the corporate or other legal entity under paragraph 5 by the end of the fifteen (15) day period beginning on the day on which the change took place.
- (2) Any natural person to whom this paragraph applies shall notify the corporate or other legal entity in writing of the change, and the notice shall:
- (a) indicate the date on which the change took place; and
- (b) provide the relevant corporate or other legal entity with any necessary

information so that it can correct the information about beneficial owners held by the corporate or other legal entity under paragraph 4 (1) to reflect this change.

- (3) Subparagraph (2) shall be observed by the natural person no later than any of the following periods being the last to expire -
- (a) within fifteen (15) days from the date on which the change was made; or
- (b) within fifteen (15) days from the day on which the events were notified to the natural person from which he could reasonably conclude that the relevant change had taken place.

PART III - ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A CENTRAL REGISTER OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF CORPORATE AND OTHER LEGAL ENTITIES

Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities.

125 (I) of 2018.

7. Subject to the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Natural Persons against the Processing of Personal Data and the Free Movement of such Data as well as Regulation (EU) 2016/679 applicable to this Directive, the Registrar of Companies shall establish, maintain and publish exclusively in electronic form, a Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities in which information about the beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities shall be kept.

Submission of data of corporate or other legal entities that were incorporated or registered before the entry into force of the Directive.

8. (1) Any corporate or other legal entity that was incorporated or registered before the commencement of this Directive and each of its officers must, no later than within six (6) months from the entry into force of this Directive, submit to the Registrar of Companies by way of the electronic means referred to in paragraph 17, the information referred to in paragraph 4 (1) regarding the beneficial owners of the corporate or

other legal entity.

Submission of data of corporate or other legal entities that are incorporated or registered after the entry into force of the Directive.

9. (1) A corporate or other legal entity established or registered after the entry into force of this Directive and each of its officers must, no later than within thirty (30) days from the date of its incorporation or registration, submit to the Registrar of Companies by way of the electronic means referred to in paragraph 17, the information referred to in paragraph 4(1) regarding the beneficial owners of the corporate or other legal entity.

Obligation to notify changes and update information.

- **10.** (1) A corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers must submit to the Registrar of Companies, any changes in the information of its beneficial owners contained in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities, in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.
- (2) No later than within fourteen (14) days from the date that the change in the information of the beneficial owners contained in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities was brought to its attention, the corporate or other legal entity, and each of its officers, must register, by electronic means referred to in paragraph 17, the changes in the information regarding its beneficial owners.
- (3) A corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers must, during the period from the 1st to the 31st of December of each year, confirm by electronic mean to the Registrar of Companies, the information regarding the beneficial owners of the corporate or other legal entity listed in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities,

Liability and fine.

- **11.** (1) The corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers shall be responsible for the true and correct submission of the information regarding the beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 above.
- (2) Notwithstanding the criminal liability or prosecution of any person, where there is a failure to comply with the reporting obligations about the beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 above, the corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers shall be liable to a fine of two hundred Euros (€ 200) and a further fine of one hundred Euros (€ 100) for each day of continuation of the violation with a maximum total fine of twenty thousand Euros (€ 20,000):

Provided that an officer of a corporate or other legal entity shall not be subject to a fine if he had exercised due diligence to comply with the provisions of this paragraph and the violation is not due to any act or omission or negligence on his part.

Access to the information kept in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities.

125 (I) of 2018.

- **12.** (1) Subject to the provisions of the Law, this Directive and the Law on the Protection of Natural Persons against the Processing of Personal Data and the Free Movement of such Data as well as Regulation (EU) 2016/679 that apply with regard to this Directive:
- (a) the persons referred to in section 61A (6) (a) (i) of the Law shall have timely and unrestricted electronic access to the information regarding the beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities kept in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities without paying a fee and without notifying the company or other legal entity,
- (b) an obliged entity shall have timely access by electronic means at lease the name, the month and year of birth, nationality and country of residence of the beneficial owner, as well as the nature and extent of the rights he holds, in the context of the measures taken for due diligence and identification of the client, subject to the prior electronic registration

thereof, determined by a directive issued by the Registrar of Companies, and the payment of a fee of three Euros and fifty cents (€ 3.50) per corporate or other legal entity,

- (c) any member of the general public shall have access by electronic means at least the name, month and year of birth, nationality and country of residence of the beneficial owner, as well as the nature and extent of the rights he holds, subject to the prior electronic registration thereof, which is determined by a directive issued by the Registrar of Companies, and the payment of a fee of three Euros and fifty cents (€ 3.50) per corporate or other legal entity.
- (2) Where the beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity is a minor, the access of an obliged entity or a member of the general public to the information held by the Registrar of Companies in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities shall be subject to the submission of a request in writing on behalf of the obliged entity or member of the general public. The Registrar of Companies shall thoroughly assess the written request and the circumstances of the case and may ask questions, request clarifications and additional information from any person and take into account any of the following, as the case maybe, to make a decision:
- (a) whether the request is duly justified and supported by evidence;
- (b) whether a court order has been made authorizing the disclosure of the information.
- (3) In case of approval or rejection of a request for access of an obliged entity or member of the general public to the information concerning a minor, the Registrar of Companies shall send to the applicant, within thirty (30) days from the date of his decision, a written notification, which includes the reasoning of the decision and mentions the right of the applicant to challenge any rejection decision by way of a recourse under Article 146 of the Constitution.

(4) The exception provided for in subparagraph (2) shall not apply to credit and financial institutions.

Exceptions to information disclosure.

- 13. (1) In exceptional cases, the beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity or the corporate or other legal entity itself, provided that it has the consent of the beneficial owner or its custodian, where the beneficial owner is otherwise legally incapable, may, upon a written request to the Registrar of Companies, request an exception to the access of an obliged entity or member of the general public to all or part of the information regarding the beneficial owner on the grounds that if access to such information is permitted, would exposed the beneficial owner to disproportionate risk of fraud, kidnapping, blackmailing, extortion, harassment, violence or intimidation or that the beneficial owner is otherwise legally incapable.
- (2) When considering a written request for exception of access to information about a beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity, the Registrar of Companies shall thoroughly assess the circumstances of the case, may ask questions, request clarifications and additional information from any person and take into account any of the following, as the case may be, to make a decision:
- (a) whether the request is duly justified and supported by evidence;
- (b) the exceptional nature of the circumstances;
- (c) whether a court order has been made authorizing the disclosure of the information:

Provided that, until the examination of a written request for exception of access to information regarding the beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity is completed and subject to the provisions of subsection (4), the Registrar of Companies shall not permit the access of an obliged entity or member of the general public to the entire or part of the information about the beneficial owner concerned.

(3) The Registrar of Companies may, by its decision, approve or reject a request for exception of access of an obliged entity or member of the general public to information regarding a beneficial owner of a corporate and other legal entity, or deny access to an obliged entity or member of the general public, to the whole or part of the information in relation to the beneficial owner of a corporate or other legal entity contained in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities.

(4) The Registrar of Companies shall send to the applicant, within thirty (30) days from the date of his decision, a written notification, which shall include the reasoning of the decision and mention the applicant's right to challenge any rejection decision by way of recourse under Article 146 of the Constitution:

Provided that no decision, order or notification of the Registrar regarding a request for exception, shall become enforceable before the expiration of seventy-five (75) days from its notification to the applicant, or while the said decision is subject to a recourse, under Article 146 of the Constitution.

(5) The exceptions provided for in subparagraph (1) shall not apply to credit and financial institutions.

Strike off the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities.

14. The information referred to in paragraph 4 (1) shall be made available through the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities and through the system of interconnection of registers for a period of up to ten (10) years from the date of strike off of the corporate or other legal entity from a relevant register kept by the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Law or any other legislation:

Provided that, after the lapse of five (5) years from the strike off of the corporate or other legal entity from the respective register, the keeping of the information referred to in paragraph 4 (1) in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities and access to such information shall only be allowed in the context of conducting an administrative or criminal investigation, in implementing the provisions of the Law, by the Supervisory Authorities, the Unit and the Law Enforcement Authorities:

It is further provided that, in case of reinstatement of the name of the corporate or other legal entity in the relevant register kept by the Registrar of Companies pursuant to the Companies Law or any other legislation, the reporting obligations about the beneficial owners and the other provisions of this Directive shall apply.

Reporting and resolving discrepancies.

- **15.** (1) Where an authority referred to in section 61A (6) (a) (i) of the Law becomes aware of a discrepancy between the information in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities and the information it holds about the beneficial owners, then the authority, if it deems that reporting is appropriate and where such reporting will not unjustifiably interfere in its tasks, it must submit a discrepancy report to the Registrar of Companies, as soon as possible by electronic means, reporting and describing the information on which there is a discrepancy, based on the data available to it. The authority shall be obliged to attach documents or other evidence at the same time, to substantiate the discrepancy.
- (2) Where an obliged entity referred to in section 61A (6) (a) (ii) of the Law becomes aware of a discrepancy between the information in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities and the information it holds of beneficial owners, it must submit a discrepancy report to the Registrar of Companies, no later than within thirty (30) days from the day it became aware of the discrepancy, by electronic means, stating the information on which there is a discrepancy, based on the data

available to the obliged entity. The obliged entity shall be obliged to attach documents or evidence to substantiate the discrepancy.

- (3) Upon receipt of the discrepancy report, the Registrar of Companies shall examine the discrepancy and if deemed appropriate, he shall electronically enter a relevant reference in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities and send a written notice to the corporate or other legal entity -
- (a) stating that the aforementioned discrepancy report has been received, and
- (b) determining the details in respect of which the discrepancy exists, and requesting the corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers to submit within thirty (30) days, a written statement with a reasoned reply of the corporate or other legal entity whether the discrepancy is valid and if it is indeed valid, the amendment information for registration by electronic means in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities required to resolve the discrepancy.
- (4) Notwithstanding the criminal liability or prosecution of any person, where a corporate or other legal entity fails to comply with the notice referred to in subparagraph (3), the corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers shall be liable to a fine of two hundred Euros (€ 200) and a further fine of one hundred Euros (€ 100) for each day of continuation of the violation with a maximum fine of twenty thousand Euros (€ 20,000):

Provided that, an officer of a corporate or other legal entity shall not be subject to a fine if he had exercised due diligence to comply with the provisions of this paragraph and the violation is not due to any act or omission or negligence on his part. Incomplete entries.

- **16.** (1) The Registrar of Companies may reject any entry of information made electronically in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities, which is incomplete or does not comply with the laws and regulations in force.
- (2) In case of rejection of entry of information in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities by the Registrar of Companies for one of the reasons referred to in subsection (1), the Registrar of Companies may request in writing from the company or any other legal entity and any of its officers to complete, amend or correct the information by electronic means or to enter the required supporting documents in electronic form.
- (3) The corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers must comply within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of the request of the Registrar.
- (4) Notwithstanding the criminal liability or prosecution of any person, where a corporate or other legal entity fails to comply with the notice referred to in subparagraph (3), the corporate or other legal entity and each of its officers shall be liable to a fine of two hundred Euros (\in 200) and a further fine of one hundred Euros (\in 100) for each day of continuation of the violation with a maximum fine of twenty thousand Euros (\in 20,000):

Provided that, an officer of a corporate or other legal entity shall not be subject to a fine if he had exercised due diligence to comply with the provisions of this paragraph and the violation is not due to any act or omission or negligence on his part.

PART IV - FINAL PROVISIONS

Registration of data and access by electronic means in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities.

- **17**. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Directive, the registration and access to information and data which have been registered in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and Other Legal Entities shall be made upon request submitted exclusively by electronic means.
- (2) A corporate or other legal entity, and any of its officers, shall be obliged to take all appropriate measures and obtain passwords through ARIADNI, in order to be allowed access to the electronic registration system of beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities.
- (3) The Registrar of Companies may issue Directives to determine the details in relation to the way of submission and update of information in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and other legal entities, the electronic registration of a person to access and search the registry of beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities and the interconnection of the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and other legal entities with other central registers of the Member States, through the European Central Platform.

Interconnection of the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and other legal entities.

Official Journal of the EU: L 169, 30.6.2017, p. 46.

- **18.** (1) The Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and other Legal Entities shall be interconnected via the European Central Platform, under the provisions of Directive 2017/1132.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Directive, information concerning the beneficial owners of corporate and other legal entities kept in the Register of Beneficial Owners of Corporate and other Legal Entities shall be available and accessible through the register interconnection system referred to in subparagraph (1).

Entry into force.

19. This Directive shall enter into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic.