

The Money Laundering in Republic of Serbia – Law and Criminal Policy

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Abstract

Nowadays, crimes committed against the property belonging to other natural and legal persons (and even to entire states) seem to be predominant in the structure of criminality on both – national as well as international level. When committing these crimes, individuals, groups and organizations perform their criminal activities with the intention to obtain illegal material gain. However, that does not appear to be enough for them and, therefore, these offenders attempt to “legalize” money and other financial gain they obtained in an illegal manner i.e. to „insert” them into legal circulation (to “create” a legal ground for their obtaining). On the other hand, the perpetrators of these criminal offences also need to hide the real sources of money and material gain obtained in such way. That is the reason why not only individual states but also the entire international community realized how dangerous these criminal activities and groups and individuals who commit money laundering and hide money and financial gain obtained by criminal offences are. So, international law and national criminal law of Serbia prescribe criminal responsibility for money laundering as a criminal offence for which strict punishments can be imposed in order to prevent and suppress these socially hazardous activities.

Keywords: *criminal offence, money, property, hiding the sources, legal ground, floatation (putting into circulation), guilt, punishment, international standards, Serbia*

I. Money laundering as problem in Serbian Criminal Law

Passing the Law on Prevention of Money Laundry in September 2001¹ Republic of Serbia (former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) joined a large number of states which have united in their effort to prevent and repress the most dangerous forms and types of organized crime related to property as a very serious security problem which knows no borders between states even between continents. Crime in general, and organized crime in particular crosses the borders of some states and becomes the international security problem of wide proportion with the tendency to penetrate further in all spheres of society.

Individuals, groups and organizations have only one aim – gaining illicit property gain or unlawful profit. Such a gained property has to be legalized in order to be used within legal financial flows in the country but also abroad. But legalization of money does not neutralize the motives and aims of criminal activities which represents the

¹ Full Professor of Faculty of Law, University of Nis, Republic of Serbia. Official Gazette of FRY, No.53/01 September 28.2001.

basis of security endangering.² In such a way these persons undertake various measures and activities aimed at 'laundering' illicitly gained money and other values (securities, value markings, and other) with the assistance of financial, investment, banking, stock exchange and other organizations and institutions and thus acquire healthy and legal basis for them.

II. Money laundering as criminal offence in international law

In order to repress these unlawful activities on the international level there has been norm-setting of law and obligations of certain states in undertaking adequate measures, means and procedures for prevention and repression of money laundry. Many international laws have been passed which precise unlawful activities and certain types and forms of money laundering as well as measures and procedures by national legislations in repression of this occurrence. In European law money laundering has been given a status of independent criminal offence, but this crime has been known by many other national criminal legislations.

The term 'money laundering' originated in America in the middle of last century. The term means various activities by criminals and criminal groups aimed at legalization of money gained by criminal activities.³ The criminals launder money by various financial activities, financial transactions, investments and stock exchange activities in order to conceal the true origin of money and thus make it legal part of capital market. In this way they have the possibility to use normally and freely the unlawfully gained money and market it in business relations and commercial business in general both in their country and abroad.

The international community⁴ has early realized the amount of social danger in money laundry operations and has therefore undertaken a large number of activities in order to prevent and repress the unlawful activities as efficiently as possible. In the 1980s the intensifying of fight against illicit production and trafficking of narcotics brought about the ideas for coordinated activities on the international level in order to repress money laundering. Namely, the aim of these activities was directed at disabling, prevention and interrupting the organizations and activities of some crime organizations involved in illicit trafficking of narcotics, primarily the Columbian cartel.

Having realized the real danger from organized crime of the international character which knows no political, state and ideological borders between nations, states and continents, the international community begins to develop a strategy for general fight against the most dangerous types of crime – trafficking with narcotics, white slavery, weapons etc. - all connected closely to money laundering. Many international legal acts have been passed to this effect. These are⁵:

1) UN Convention against illicit trafficking with narcotics and psychotropic substances passed in 1988 in Vienna,

2) Convention on laundering, search and confiscation of criminally gained profit dated November 8, 1990, Strasbourg,

² Jovašević D., *Criminal Law, General Part*, Belgrade, 2017, p. 156.

³ Jovašević D., *Lexicon of Criminal Law*, Belgrade, 2011, pp. 481-482.

⁴ Petrović B., Jovašević D., *International Criminal Law*, Sarajevo, 2010, pp. 107-111.

⁵ Jovašević D., *International Criminal Law*, Niš, 2010, p. 98.

- 3) 1991 Directive for prevention of use of financial system for money laundering,
- 4) 1993 Cyprus Communiqué and
- 5) UN Convention against transnational organized crime passed December 12-15, 2000, in Palermo.

These international acts establish a legal basis for governing of incriminated behavior related to money laundering in national criminal legislation and regulation of criminal sanctions.⁶ It is therefore very important how individual national legislations deal with criminal-legal aspect of money laundering, all the more so as many solutions included in the said international legal acts are incorporated in the solutions of national criminal legislations⁷.

1988 UN Convention against illicit trafficking with narcotics and psychotropic substances (known as Vienna Convention) which was accepted by more than a hundred states, our being among them⁸, provides for the obligation of signatory countries to incriminate many activities connected to drug trafficking within their national legislation as well as to treat laundering of such earned money as criminal activity. Article 3 of the Convention defines the concept of money laundering as criminal offence. According to the definition this crime exists when the following activities are undertaken with premeditation (on purpose):

- 1) conversion or transfer of property knowing that the property is the result of committed crime in order to conceal illicit origin of the property;
- 2) assistance to any person involved in commitment of such a crime in order to avoid legal consequences of these activities;
- 3) hiding or concealing the true nature, source, location, availability and movement of derived ownership rights or property knowing that the property is the result of committed crime;
- 4) gaining, possession or use of goods or things or values (knowing at the time of its receipt) that are the result of illicit trafficking of narcotics;
- 5) collusion in order to commit, attempt, assist, instigate, facilitate or advise to commit crime of trafficking with narcotics including money laundering.⁹

In this way the crime of money laundering has been defined by many activities including preparatory activities, attempt and even the complicity (instigation, assistance or organization of criminal association) as the activities of commitment. This extends the sphere of punishable behavior making it equal to commitment. Knowledge, consciousness, intention or purpose as subjective elements of psychological nature must exist as important constituting elements of this crime. The Convention has not defined the kind and amount of penalty but left that to national legislations.

The other important act in this field is the Convention on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of profit gained by criminal activities which was passed by the Council of Europe on November 8, 1990, in Strasbourg.¹⁰ This Convention also defines the obligation

⁶ Jovašević D., *Commentary of Criminal Code of the FR Yugoslavia*, Belgrade, 2002. pp. 312-315.

⁷ Jovašević D., Ikanović V., *International Criminal Law*, Banja Luka, 2015, pp. 101-105.

⁸ Official Gazette FRY - International agreements, No.14/1990.

⁹ Glimore W.C., *International Initiatives in the Field of Money Laundering*, Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, 1995, p. 260.

¹⁰ This Convention was ratified by the Federal Assembly FRY on their Session dated July 02. 2002. The text of the Convention was published in the Official Gazette of FRY, International Agreements, No. 7/2002, July, 03. 2002.

of signatory countries of this international organization to include the crime of money laundering in their respective national legislations. The characteristics of this crime are defined identically as by the Vienna Convention with the difference that in this case there is a tendency to take away and confiscate complete property gained not only by unlawful activities related to narcotics, but also related to terrorism, trading white slavery, weapons and criminal acts by which a great profit is made.

Article 6 of the Convention defines the concept and characteristics of crime of money laundering which consists of intentional undertaking of one or several of the following activities:

1) conversion or transfer of property knowing that the property is the result of committed crime in order to conceal or present untruly the origin of property or assisting an individual involved in commitment of predicative crime in order to avoid legal consequences for his acts;

2) concealing or untrue representation of legal nature, source, location, use, movement of rights or property in relation to the property knowing that the property is the result of committed crime;

3) gaining, possession or use of property knowing at the time of receipt that it is the result of criminal activities;

4) participation, collusion or conspiracy in order to commit, try to commit and assist, instigate or facilitate and advise to commit any crime.

The problems of undertaking efficient measures for prevention and repression of money laundering were also included in the UN Convention against transnational organized crime with two additional protocols: The Protocol for prevention, repression and punishment of trading with human beings, especially women and children and the Protocol against smuggling of migrants by land, sea or air. The latter international legal acts were passed at the Conference sponsored by the United Nations in December 2000 in Palermo.¹¹

Article 6 of this Convention titled "Criminalization of criminally gained profit laundering" defines the concept and characteristics of the crime of money laundering which all signatory countries are obliged to include in their national criminal legislation.

Article 7 of the Convention also provides for the measures for fighting against money laundering and defines the subjects, activities and procedures by competent national authorities regarding prevention and repression of various forms and types of money laundering.

In 2005, the Council of Europe adopted the new Convention on Money Laundering, Investigation, Confiscation and Confiscation of Profit from Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (Warszawa). The preamble to this Convention explicitly states: "in the modern world, it is necessary to combat serious crimes that are becoming a serious international problem, and which requires modern and effective methods at the international level." In Article 1 of the Convention, the term "profit" is defined as directly or indirectly obtained, through the commission of criminal offenses, property in the sense of tangible and intangible, movable or immovable property, securities or assets which speak of ownership or interest in such property.

¹¹ This Convention with additional protocols was ratified by the Federal Assembly on their Session of June 22, 2001. The text of the Convention and additional protocols was published in the Official Gazette of FRY, International Agreements, No. 6/2001, June 27, 2001.

Article 9 defines the crime of money laundering in the same way as the 1990 European Convention. The novelty in relation to earlier decisions is reflected in the fact that criminal prosecution for the criminal offense of money laundering can be undertaken irrespective of the fact that the perpetrator was previously convicted of a predicate crime from which illicit profit arose.

III. Money laundering in the criminal law of Serbia

First code - The Law on prevention of money laundering Federal Republic of Yugoslavia passed in September 2001, and effective as of July 01, 2002, defines the concept of money laundering, the manners, procedures, activities, forms and types of manifestations and includes many measures, procedures and approaches by competent authorities or persons having an obligation to detect, prevent and suppress the activities by natural and legal persons related to concealing of unlawfully gained money and other property gain.

The money laundry includes depositing of money gained by performing illicit activities on the accounts with banks or other financial organizations or institutions or otherwise putting such money into legal financial operations. According to law this crime may be committed in two manners as follows:

- 1) by depositing money on the account and
- 2) by putting money into legal financial operations.

For the existence of this criminal offence several cumulative conditions must be fulfilled¹². They must be either depositing of money on the account with banks or other financial organizations or institutions or otherwise putting such money into legal financial operations. In order to be legally relevant, these activities must refer to the money which may appear in one of the following forms: as cash, effective foreign currency or other finances. What is important is the fact that the money was gained by performing illicit, unlawful activities such as: grey economy, illicit trade in arms, narcotics or psychotropic substances and other illicit activities.

The perpetrators of these incriminated activities according to law may be domestic or foreign natural or legal persons.

In addition to the legally specifically stated activities by which a criminal offence of money laundering can be committed, but also other illicit gains, the activities on assisting with money laundry are also incriminated. These activities include all actions and procedures by which one provides for, contributes, facilitates, makes conditions or assumptions for money laundry. The activities enabling money laundry include the following:

- 1) concealing or hiding the origin of money or place where it was deposited or concealing the purpose of use of property and all rights resulting from performing an illicit activity;
- 2) exchange or transfer of property resulting from performing illicit activities;
- 3) acquiring, possession or use of property resulting from performing illicit activities, and
- 4) concealing of illicitly gained public property or public capital on the occasion of property transformation of a company.

¹² Jovanović Lj., Jovašević D., *Criminal Law, Special Part*, Belgrade, 2003, p. 156.

In order to be able to deal with money laundry or enable it in any of the specified manners, we need to have the activities undertaken and directed at the money which was illicitly gained. Illicitly gained money is the money gained in an unlawful manner either as cash money or cash equivalent in domestic or foreign currency, stocks and bonds and other payment facilities in domestic or foreign currency as well as property (rights and things) bought with such money.

Article 4 of this law includes a range of general, specific and special measures and activities aimed at detecting and preventing of money laundry on the occasion of taking, exchanging or changing money or when concluding business transactions regarding property or during any other dealing with money or property which can make the opportunity for money laundry. All those various dealings with money are called transactions by law. The transactions at that do not include specifically the following activities: withdrawing cash from the current or giro account, savings account or some other account, or withdrawing effective foreign currency from foreign currency account or foreign currency savings account.

Article 5 of the Law on prevention of money laundry defines the subjects of detecting and preventing of money laundry. It defines them as persons having an obligation. These are: legal persons and their responsible persons. As persons having an obligation for various measures and activities on prevention of money laundry are: banks and other financial organizations, companies of postal, telegraphic and telephone traffic, other companies and cooperative societies, government agencies, organizations, funds, institutes, institutions as well as other legal persons financed partially or completely by public revenues, the National Bank of Serbia, insurance companies, stock exchange, stock brokers and other subjects involved in transactions with money and stocks and bonds, precious metals and precious stones, exchange offices, pawn-shops, casinos, poolrooms, slot-machine clubs and organizers of prize games and other games of chance, as well as other legal and natural persons which purchase and sell debts and claims or deal with financial transactions.

Criminal offence - responsibility and punishment- "Money laundering" in law system of the Republic of Serbia have provided two law rules: 1) The Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (2017) and 2) Criminal code (2005).

According to this law the criminal offence of 'money laundry' takes three forms: basic, specific and serious. This solution is using in law of Republic of Serbia. The Criminal Code¹³ in 2005. has provided special criminal offence: Money laundering in Article 245¹⁴.

The basic form of this criminal offence carries prison sentence from six months to five years. It exists when any of the mentioned activities which are contrary to the provisions of this law is undertaken by which money is deposited with a bank or other financial organization or institution or is otherwise included into legal financial circulation in order to do legal economic or financial activities if the money is the result of a criminal activity. The awareness, knowledge of a perpetrator that the money is the result of some or any criminal activity is the basis for criminal liability of

¹³ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 85/2005, 88/2005, 107/2005, 72/2009, 111/2009, 114/2011, 121/12, 104/2013, 108/2014, 94/2016 and 35/2019.

¹⁴ Jovašević D., *Criminal law, Special part*, Belgrade, 2018. pp. 187-188.

this person. Even the attempt to commit this crime (in case of intentional starting of any activity directed at money laundry) is punishable by law.

However, the criminal offense of money laundering referred to in Article 245 and two more serious, qualified forms of manifestation, for which fair punishment is prescribed.

The first serious form of the act (paragraph 2) exists if the enforcement action has been taken in respect of money and property the value of which exceeds the amount of RSD 1,500,000. The value of the object on which the offense is committed in any form of manifestation is a qualifying circumstance. It is determined on market terms at the time the enforcement action is taken. For this offense, one to ten years' imprisonment and a fine are cumulatively prescribed.

Another serious form of offense (paragraph 4) for which a sentence of imprisonment of two to twelve years is cumulatively prescribed and a fine exists if the enforcement action is taken in a group. A group within the meaning of Article 112, item 22 of the Criminal code is composed of at least three persons who are connected for the purpose of perpetual or occasional commission of criminal offenses which do not have to have defined roles of their members, continuity of membership or a developed structure.

The perpetrator of the crime of money laundry can be natural person (domestic or foreign citizen), but also the responsible person as legal person who knew or was obliged to know or could have known that the money is the result of criminal activities.

In addition to criminal offence carrying very severe penalties, Article 28 of the law includes economic torts of a legal person or his/her responsible person, as well as the tort of an entrepreneur included in Article 29 of the law.

And finally regarding the efforts which our country has recently undertaken in order to root out the money laundry is passing the Law on organization and jurisdiction of state institutions on suppression of organized crime.¹⁵ This law governs establishing, organization, jurisdiction and powers of special government bodies – the Belgrade District Court, Special Prosecutor's Office, Special Service for suppression of organized crime established as part of the Ministry of Interior and Special Detention Unit within the Department for Execution of Penal Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice in order to detect and prosecute perpetrators of criminal offences having the elements of organized crime where money laundry is included as well.

The Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism¹⁶ of 2017 in Article 2 defines the concept of money laundering. Money laundering is thus considered to be the following details: a) conversion or transfer of property acquired through the commission of a criminal offense, b) concealment or inaccuracy of the true nature, origin, location, movement, disposition, ownership or right in connection with property acquired through the commission of a criminal offense and v) the acquisition, possession or use of property acquired through the commission of a criminal offense. It follows from the above definition that this Law also defines in a uniform manner the concept, elements, characteristics of beings and characteristics of the criminal offense of money laundering as well as the Criminal Code.

¹⁵ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 42/2002, 27/2003 i 39/2003.

¹⁶ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 113/2017.

IV. Criminal policy of courts for money laundering offenses

In the following presentations, we will analyze the scope, dynamics and structure of economic crimes in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2006-2014 (ie, until the beginning of the implementation of the Criminal Code), as well as the place and participation of the criminal offense of money laundering in the structure of economic criminal offenses.

Table 1. Share of economic crimes in total criminal offenses committed in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2006-2014

| | Total criminal offenses | Economic offenses | % |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|------|
| 2006 | 105.701 | 2.868 | 2,71 |
| 2007 | 98.702 | 2.663 | 2,70 |
| 2008 | 101.723 | 3.099 | 3,04 |
| 2009 | 100.026 | 3.131 | 3,13 |
| 2010 | 74.279 | 2.479 | 3,34 |
| 2011 | 88.207 | 2.957 | 3,35 |
| 2012 | 92.879 | 3.221 | 3,47 |
| 2013 | 91.411 | 3.397 | 3,72 |
| 2014 | 92.600 | 3.347 | 3,61 |

From the above data we can see that economic crimes in general, in a very small percentage, participate in the total crime in the Republic of Serbia. This percentage ranges from a minimum of 2.70% in 2007 or 2.71% in 2006 (ie, immediately beginning the implementation of new criminal legislation), to a maximum of 3.72% in 2013, or 3,61 5 during 2014.

Otherwise, in absolute terms, the least amount of economic crimes was committed, and 2,663 were committed in 2007. These offenses experience their maximum manifestation in practice in 2013 with 3,397 criminal offenses, or in 2014 with 3,347 criminal offenses. However, there is a gradual trend of an increase in the number of committed criminal offenses from the initial 2,868 cases in 2006 to 3,347 in 2014.

Table 2. Participation of the criminal offense of money laundering in commercial enterprises crimes in Serbia

| | Economic offenses | Money laundering | % | | |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|------|--|--|
| 2006 | 2.868 | 4 | 0,14 | | |
| 2007 | 2.663 | 12 | 0,45 | | |
| 2008 | 3.099 | 15 | 0,48 | | |
| 2009 | 3.131 | 8 | 0,25 | | |
| 2010 | 2.479 | 34 | 1,37 | | |
| 2011 | 2.957 | 23 | 0,77 | | |
| 2012. | 3.221 | 21 | 0,65 | | |
| 2013. | 3.397 | 3 | 0,08 | | |
| 2014. | 3.347 | 9 | 0,27 | | |

This table gives us a picturesque overview of the extremely small number of committed (ie reported crime of money laundering because the dark crime rate is extremely high here) of crimes in the observed period. It so happened that only three criminal offenses of this kind were violated in 2013 or four criminal offenses in the year 2006, while most of these offenses were reported in 2010 (34 offenses), or in the following 2011 (23 offenses), to decrease by the end of the observed period. And in percentage terms, these acts participate modestly in the number of economic crimes committed, from a minimum of 0.08% in 2013 or 0.14% in 2006 to a maximum share of 1.37% in 2010.

In order to effectively combat crime in general, society has at its disposal various means, measures and procedures, most notably a system of criminal sanctions and powers of the public prosecutor's office in prosecuting perpetrators of criminal offenses.¹⁷ Such is the situation with the suppression of economic crime, and within it criminal offenses of money laundering, for which cumulative sentences of imprisonment of different duration (depending on the form of manifesting the act) and a fine are prescribed.

Table 3. How to solve money laundering offenses in Serbia in the period 2006-2014

| | Number of charges | Dismissed application | Suspension of investigation | Defendant | |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| 2006 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2007 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 2008 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 4 | |
| 2009 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 6 | |
| 2010 | 34 | 5 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2011 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| 2012 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| 2013 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | |
| 2014 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 1 | |

The quality and efficiency of prosecuting perpetrators of money laundering offenses in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2006-2014 are best illustrated by the above data. From the statistics available, it appears that very few have been charged in relation to the otherwise small number of reported persons for the crime of money laundering. In the two observed years - 2006 and 2010 of the reported persons, none were indicted, while one reported person was effectively and indicted during 2007, 2013 and 2014. The highest number of accused persons for this crime, six in 2009, three quarters of the total number of reported persons.

The above data indicate an extremely small number of suspensions of investigations into this criminal offense under the Code of Criminal Procedure for prescribed reasons. Thus, only one suspension of the investigation was recorded during 2007, 2011 and 2012, while in the other observed years no suspensions of the investigation against the reported person for the criminal offense of money laundering were recorded.

¹⁷ Bošković A., Pavlović Z., *Special Evidentiary Actions in the Function of Combating Organized Crime in Serbia*, Journal of Eastern European Criminal Law, No.1. 2015

However, a large number of dismissed criminal charges for this crime can be observed. The absolute maximum of denials of criminal charges was recorded during 2007 - eight rejections (three quarters of the number of criminal charges filed) or six rejections of criminal charges during 2014 (out of nine filed - therefore, two thirds of the filed were rejected by authorized public prosecutor) for a reported crime of money laundering.

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The last part of the presentation about the criminal offense of money laundering and the efforts undertaken in the Republic for the purpose of its effective and quality suppression relate, as it is logical, to the analysis of the effectiveness of criminal proceedings in terms of the type and measure of the imposed penalties and other criminal sanctions against their perpetrators. by the competent courts. In fact, there is a concrete individualization of the high, cumulatively prescribed, penalties for perpetrators of the criminal offense of money laundering, as well as the severity, or mildness, of the criminal policy of the courts, which indicates the degree of rule of law and the level of the rule of law.

Table 4. Sentences imposed on perpetrators of criminal offenses money laundering in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2006-2014

| | 2-3 years imprisonment | 6 months-1 year imprisonment | 3-6 months imprisonment | 2-3 months imprisonment | Secondary sentence | Conditional sentence |
|------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2006 | | | | | | |
| 2007 | | | | | | |
| 2008 | | 1 | | | | |
| 2009 | | | 2 | 2 | | |
| 2010 | | | | | | 1 |
| 2011 | | 2 | | | | |
| 2012 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 2013 | | 1 | | | | |
| 2014 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |

Although it is a serious international and economic crime that is related to a previous (predicate) crime that acquired unlawful material gain by concealing it, in the criminal policy of the courts, extremely mild sentences (when imposed) are prevalent, that is. other criminal sanctions.

Thus, the legislator prescribes the cumulative application of imprisonment and a fine for this criminal offense, but in 2012 only in one case did the court impose a fine as a side punishment to the perpetrator of the crime of money laundering.

In 2010, even in one case, a suspended sentence was imposed for this offense.

A sentence of two to three years' imprisonment was imposed only once during 2012.

Of the other sentences, the most frequently imposed sentence is imprisonment for a term of six months to one year – but very rarely, one each during 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

A sentence of two to three months' imprisonment was extremely rare - once in 2014, or in two cases in 2009.

V. Conclusion

The increase of new and various forms of criminal offences has been noticed recently especially those which include the international element, i.e. the element of organized crime. Crimes when perpetrators have the purpose of obtaining some illicit property gain for themselves or for some other person take special part within them. But this gain is not the purpose in itself but has to be legalized or laundered by putting money or other property into legal circulation. The international community, but also the individual countries are faced with the problem of suppression of the money laundry or concealing the origin or money gained by committing crime. The Serbia (former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) joined these tendencies and in September 2001 passed a special Law on prevention of money laundry and in October 2005. passed new Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia.

This law dealing with money laundry in our country provides for a wide range of preventive measures and procedures directed at detection, prevention and suppression of various activities of money laundry or assistance with money laundry and this law is supposed to lead our country into a circle of other contemporary states which try to put a stop to this dangerous social evil by organized, systematic and continuous activities of various social subjects. It is certain that in this fight the repressive measures – sanctions for criminal offences, economic torts and torts - cannot be completely efficient.

The preventive measures take special place here especially those trying to remove the conditions which lead to situations that illicitly, i.e. unlawfully gained money is put into legal financial and economic flows in various manners through various financial and other transactions. Naturally, this is the fight where every country should count on the assistance of other countries, even the whole international community, in the same way as crime which does not know the borders between countries.

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