

## Answers to the Questionnaire

### 1. Basic information

#### 1.1. Does your country have a financial disclosure system(s) for appropriate public officials in line with articles 8, paragraph 5 and 52, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Convention?

Yes.

If YES,

##### a. Please provide a broad overview of your country's financial disclosure system(s) for public officials and list the relevant national legislation.

*Financial Disclosure System(s) is governed by Law 5026/28-02-2023 on Asset Declaration Submission via electronic platform.*

The Greek asset declarations system is governed by the newly adopted law 5026/2023 on "Submission of Assets declarations and financial interests' declarations - Arrangements to strengthen the European Public Prosecutor's Office - Other urgent provisions". Specific categories of persons including the Prime Minister, Ministers, high ranked and senior public officials, judges, prosecutors, public officials, Media Owners, journalists and other Individuals are obliged amongst others to submit an asset declaration form.

The law aims at a) **enhancing transparency by increasing the number of asset declarations that are audited annually to at least seven percent (7%) of the total number over a three-year period;** (b) **improving the quality and effectiveness of audits on asset declarations;** (c) **removing the fragmentation of the control bodies by giving the authority and supervision of the control to a single audit body;** and (d) **reducing the administrative burden of the submission and control procedure.**

Within this framework, an **Audit Committee** is established for a better coordination in terms of time and resources. AC is an independent special body with administrative and financial autonomy, composed of eleven (11) full members with an equal number of alternates, with one of its members being the Governor of the National Transparency Authority (NTA), with his/her alternate. The Committee is responsible for providing clarifications for all categories of persons liable for the submission of declarations of assets and financial Interests and may delegate this responsibility, for part of these persons, to the special bodies designated by the law (Article 27 of the Law) and receive information in this regard.

The law also provides for the appointment of an **audit coordinator** to assist the work of the Audit Committee in achieving the annual target. The Committee has the power to assign to **external certified auditors and experts** (specialized in audit operations) audit missions. The external experts will also apply a **standardized methodology** for each type of audit and perform a thorough examination of the asset declarations, when required, and prepare the report.

The law modernizes the legislative framework for the submission of assets and financial Interests declarations, as well as to enhance the efficiency of the procedure, while at the same time facilitates the submission of declarations by the persons liable for such act. In particular, it is a procedure with significant benefits for both auditors and auditees that helps to eliminate the phenomena of different treatment of the persons liable for declarations in similar cases, through the definition and coordination of the audit framework by a centralized body (i.e. the Audit

Committee) and increases the number of audit results through the introduction of an **obligation to have a minimum percentage of auditees**.

The National Transparency Authority, in addition to its direct participation in the Audit Committee, is appointed as a special audit body under Article 27 of the Law, responsible for the audit of asset declarations of specific categories of persons.

**b. If your country has, in addition, ad hoc financial disclosure requirements, please provide a broad overview, including applicable categories of officials, sectors/activities, etc.**

All public officials are requested to submit financial report as prescribed in Law 3528/2007.

**c. What is the objective(s) of your country's financial disclosure system(s) (please select all that apply)?**

- Detection of illicit enrichment
- Prevention of conflicts of interest
- All of the above (combined system)**
- Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.2. Has your country criminalized “illicit enrichment” as foreseen under article 20 of the Convention?**

Article 904 of the Civil Code refers to “Illicit enrichment”

Art. 39 of Law 5026/2023 envisages sanctions in case where obliged person fails to submit the declaration within the deadline laid down in the second subparagraph of Article 22; or submits an incorrect or incomplete declaration. Depending on the undisclosed amount, the perpetrator can be charged with a misdemeanor or felony.

## **2. Targeted officials**

**2.1. Please list the categories of officials required to file a financial disclosure. Please select all that apply and provide the range of targeted officials in each relevant category.**

*Articles 3 - 16 of Law 5026/2013.*

**Public officials, including representatives from all branches and agencies of**

**Government:**

- General and Special Secretaries of the Parliament and the Central Government, as well as administrative officers, deputy administrative officers, sectoral and special sectoral secretaries, employees or consultants of special positions and the political advisors who are appointed by a governmental body of one or more members, as well as the public officials who are seconded, to the Ministry of Interior and are available to Members of

Parliament and political parties of the Hellenic Parliament and the European Parliament and in the office of the Greek Commissioner to the European Commission.

- General Secretaries of the Decentralized Administrations and, when appointed, Coordinators of Decentralized Administrations, Deputy Heads of Regions and members of the Regional Councils, as well as Heads of Directorates-General and Regional Directorates.

**Members of the legislative branch, please list:**

Members of the Parliament

**Members of the judiciary and prosecution, please list:**

Judicial and Prosecuting officials and the members of the Legal Council of State

**Members of the executive branch, including armed forces and agencies subordinate to a minister:**

- General Directors of the Ministries, Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Directors, Deputy Directors, executive members or appointed advisors and General Directors of the public law legal entities, public companies of public organizations, as well as private law legal entities which belong to the State or receive regular funding by at least 50% of their annual budget from State sources or their members of the board are appointed either directly or indirectly by the State with an administrative act or as a shareholder.
- Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, directors of sectors of the Staff General of National Defense, the General Staff of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, judicial officials of the Armed Forces' judicial body, as well as the General Director and Deputy General Director of the General Directorate for Defense Armaments and Investments of the Ministry of National Defense.
- Chiefs and deputy chiefs of the Hellenic Police, the Port Police – Hellenic Coastguard and the Fire Brigade.
- The staff of the Internal Affairs department of the Hellenic Police and of the Port Police – Coastal Guard.

**Officials of independent government bodies (*e.g., standalone boards, commissions and agencies that fall outside the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government*):**

- The president and vice president of the National Intelligence Agency (E.Y.P.) and the Civil Air force Service (Y.P.A.).
- The Director, Deputy Directors, executive directors and managers of the Bank of Greece.
- Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Managers, Directors, Deputy Directors, executive members of the B.o.D. and general managers of banks and financial institutions, as well of companies providing investment services.

- The President and executive members of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Stock Exchange and the managers in this company according to its charter or a decision of its Board of Directors.
- The President and executive members of the Board of Directors of any other institution of an organized stock market legally operating in Greece and those with a managerial position in such institutions according to its applicable charter or according to a decision of its Board of Directors.
- Presidents, members and heads of departments at the level of General Directorate and Directorate of all Independent Authorities, including independent administrative and regulating Authorities, the Committee of Competition, the Capital Market Commission, as well as the General Supervisor of Public Administration and his/her Special Supervisors who are detached at his/her office.
- The president, members and employees of the Authority for the Fight against Money Laundering Activities and Financing Terrorism and Auditing Statements of Assets.

**Officials at the supranational (high-level) bodies (e.g., representatives of the country in regional and global organizations/bodies):**

- National Representatives (MEPs) to the European Parliament

**Officials at subnational levels of government (e.g., officials at the level of local government, provinces and municipalities):**

Heads of Regions, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Presidents and members, both regular and alternate of the Municipal committees, Presidents and members of the Municipal Councils, Presidents, CEOs and members of Boards of Directors and General Managers of municipal public law entities, of pure or mixed municipal enterprises set up by the above Local Authorities and Municipal associations, as well as the Heads of Directorates-General and Municipal Directorates. In particular with regard to school committees, the Presidents and the administrators of the bank accounts shall submit a declaration of assets.

**Political party officials:**

The Leaders of political parties represented in the National Parliament and those parties which receive state funding.

**Representatives of publicly owned (fully and partially) enterprises:**

Presidents, regular and alternate members of all State committees responsible for tenders for supplies and services, including those of the armed forces, of public law legal entities, private law legal entities which belong to the State or receive regular funding by at least 50% of their annual budget from State sources or their managers are appointed either directly or indirectly by the State with an administrative act or as a shareholder, public companies and public organizations, providing they exceed an amount of one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) Euro per tender, as well as the General Director and Directors of the General Directorate of Public Procurement and all those who are appointed as heads of any organizing level of procurement offices of State and of public and private law legal entities, public companies and public organizations. The same applies to the president and members of all committees for tenders for public contracts of the above institutions, providing the budget of the contract exceeds an amount of three hundred thousand (300,000) Euro.

The staff of the Special Secretariat for Partnerships between the Public and Private Sectors, as well as Presidents, managers or administrators of private sector companies participating in such partnerships.

**Representatives of private entities, professional associations, foundations and similar bodies performing public functions and services of public interest:**

Owners, publishers, shareholders, partners, presidents, managers, executive members of the Board of Directors (BoD), administrators, as well as general managers and news directors of any form of company, with a permit to operate or generally owners of the rights to exploit television stations, free reception or providers of any form of membership television services, and also radio stations, as well as their main shareholders with the exception of shareholders under par.4 article of Law 4339/2015 as well as of these shareholders

The owners, shareholders, partners, presidents, managers and executive members of the BoD, the administrators as well as general managers and news managers of any form of company with the rights to exploit internet news media or publish daily or weekly magazines at national or local level as well as their main shareholders with the exception of shareholders under par.4 article of Law 4339/2015 as well as of these shareholders.

Journalists, members of the respective journalist associations as well as those providing journalist services to companies editing publications and to radio and television or internet news media under an employment or a project contract.

**Other, please list:**

**2.2. What factor(s) shaped the decision on the targeted categories of officials? Please select all that apply.**

- Objective of the system
- Hierarchical level and position of officials
- Corruption risk level of sectors and functions
- Resources and capacity to manage and verify disclosure

**2.2.1. Please elaborate on your response above.**

**2.3. Does any authority have the power to request any official who would usually fall outside the disclosure system to file financial disclosure (e.g., designate those in high-risk categories, those under investigation for corruption offences, etc.)?**

No, the Audit Committee has no such power.

**3. Frequency of disclosure**

**3.1. When and how often are targeted officials required to file/submit financial disclosures? Please select all that apply.**

- Upon entering office
- Upon leaving office
- Annually
- Biennially (once every two years)

- Once every three years
- Some categories of officials are more frequently required to declare than the others**
- Other, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**3.2. Does the competent authority have the power to request targeted officials (filers) to submit ad hoc financial disclosures between the official submission periods?**

No, the Audit Committee has no such power.

**3.3. Are the targeted officials required to update/amend their financial disclosures between submission periods?**

**Yes**

**If YES**, please provide the ground for updating/amending submitted disclosures and the relevant time frame.

In case an initial/annual asset declaration has been submitted in time:

According to the article 18 of the said law: *“Omissions or inaccuracies in the declarations may be voluntarily filled in by the person liable, within 30 days from the expiry of the time deadline for submitting the initial, if it is an initial one or the annual”*.

In case of non-submission within the set deadline:

Within thirty (30) days from the expiration of submission deadline, the submission of a declaration is allowed after payment of an electronic fee of two hundred (200) euros for the obliged persons of art.4 (a), art. 6 (a) and of art.8 1(a) and fifty (50) euros for other obliged persons. After the expiration of the thirty (30) days of the previous paragraph and within a year from the submission deadline (as laid down in art.18 par.1), the submission of a declaration is allowed after payment of an electronic fee of four hundred (400) euros for the obliged persons of art.4 (a), art. 6 (a) and of art.8 1(a) and one hundred (100) euros for the other obliged persons.

**4. Competent authority and disclosure process**

**4.1. Which authority/entity is responsible for collecting and maintaining financial disclosures? Please select all that apply.**

**V Central competent authority**

- Entities employing the targeted officials
- Other authorities depending on the categories/levels of officials (election Commissions, supreme courts, parliamentary committees, etc.). Please list:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4.2. How are the financial disclosures submitted?**

Centralized submission directly to the central competent authority via

**V Electronic (online) submission system**

- Submission using the paper submission
- Delegated submission using paper submission (e.g., to individual bodies, which store them and transmit them to the competent authority)
- Delegated submission using both paper and electronic (online) submission (*paper declarations are submitted to individual bodies while the electronic copies are submitted to a centralized online system of the competent authority*)
- Other.

**4.2.1. Please elaborate on your response above and describe the processes and methods of submitting the disclosures.**

The obliged person is required to be a certified user of TAXIS net services (tax revenue IMS System) in order to submit his/her declaration. The declarations are submitted exclusively through the online application.

The obliged persons are certified through the use of their personal codes in TAXIS net. During the submission of their asset declarations the basic data, i.e. the Tax Identification Number, the surname, the name and parent's name, are loaded from the tax register and appear automatically. The personal data of the taxpayer, such as his/her ID number, address, telephone number, are declared as they are on the date of submission of the asset declaration.

The obliged persons, after their identification, may consent (with a solemn affirmation) to import directly data from their last electronically submitted income tax declaration (E1) to the of asset declaration of the respective year, as well as the data of rights in rem, as these data are kept electronically in the Tax Authority (E9).

Upon final submission of the declaration, the obliged persons may store on their computers a copy of the submitted asset declaration (with their ref. number and date of submission). After the final submission, the obliged person may update following the process described in part 3.3 of the questionnaire.

**4.3.If electronic submission is possible, please describe the online tools and platforms available for submitting financial disclosures.**

Please refer to answers provided under questions 4.2 and 4.2.1 of the questionnaire.

The declarations are submitted electronically (online) through a single application to the competent audit authority. Relevant data are stored in a special database. Certified auditors undertake the verification of assets declared.

**4.4.Please describe the measures implemented to ensure compliance and appropriate quality of information when completing and submitting the financial disclosure (e.g., disseminating information materials, training, awareness raising, etc.).**

Compliance and appropriate quality of information are ensured though the E-POTHEN website [www.pothen.gr](http://www.pothen.gr) where all the relevant information Material (legal framework, Circulars, manual etc.) as well as a FAQs section and explanatory notes and helpdesk are available to the users in order to facilitate the submission of asset declarations.

## 5. Scope of disclosures

5.1. Please list the assets and interests included in the financial disclosure forms, including categories of assets and other financial interests. Please also refer to the list below.

- V      **Immovable and movable assets**
- V      **their value and source**
- V      **those (assets) held in the name of others**
- V      **Income**
- V      **their source**
- V      **Securities**
- V      **Investments**
- V      **Savings**
- V      **Bank accounts**
- V      **Any other business relationships with financial institutions**
- V      **Liabilities / loans / mortgage**
  - Cash
  - Gifts
  - Livestock
- V      **Ownership interests (*shareholdings*) in companies and other legal entities and arrangements**
- V      **Business / outside activities (*business interests and financial connections*)**
  - License(s) (*to carry out commercial activities*)
- V      **Usufruct rights (to use and benefit from an asset owned by others)**
- V      **Information on all legal persons linked to the official in any way, individual economic activity, membership and position in undertakings, establishments, associations or foundations**

5.2. Is the requirement to disclose an asset dependent on its value (*e.g., assets below a certain threshold do not need to be declared*)? Please explain.

No there is no such requirement.

5.3. Does the information mentioned in question 5.1 include assets and relevant financial interests located both in and outside the country?

Yes

5.3.1. If YES, does it require the disclosure of an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (please see article 52, paragraph 6, of the Convention)?

No



**5.4. Does your country's financial disclosure system include a declaration of beneficial ownership (of legal entities and arrangements, including nominee arrangements and trusts)?<sup>1</sup> YES/NO**

**5.4.1. Are the targeted officials required to declare assets and interests held, managed or controlled through such legal entities and arrangements?**

**5.4.2. Are the targeted officials required to declare assets and interests held, managed or controlled through such legal entities and arrangements?**

**5.5. Are targeted officials also required to submit information for their family members?**

Yes

**If YES,**

**a. Please describe the scope of the family members (spouse(s), registered/non-registered partner(s), children (minor, financially dependent, within the same household, age limits, etc.)).**

All of the above

**b. Please describe the type of information that must be submitted for family members. Is it the same as of the public official?**

The same as public officials.

**5.6. Does the financial disclosure system cover individuals other than the family members of the filers?**

No

If YES, please list the applicable individuals and the type of information that needs to be submitted.

**5.7. For subsequent regular financial disclosures, what is the extent of information included in such financial disclosures?**

**V Information required in the disclosure includes only changes in the equity of the filer since the last disclosure**

A complete new disclosure (i.e., a net worth statement)

Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> On beneficial ownership, please refer to the conference room paper prepared by the secretariat entitled "Good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership and how it can foster and enhance the effective recovery and return of proceeds of crime" ([CAC/COSP/WG.2/2022/CRP.1](#)).

**5.8. Does your country's financial disclosure regime require declaring expenditures?**

No

If YES, please provide an overview of the relevant features.

**6. Access to disclosed information**

**6.1. Is the information on financial disclosure publicly available?**

Yes, partly available.

- a. Please describe the measures in place to ensure public access to financial disclosure information (e.g., proactive publication on a central online platform and/or on relevant authorities' websites, ad hoc disclosure in a paper form upon request, etc.)**

Publication on a central online platform and/or on relevant authorities' websites

- b. If not all disclosures are publicly available, please list the categories of targeted officials whose disclosures are accessible and/or remain confidential.**

Politically exposed persons' asset declarations are publicly available.

- c. If only part of the financial disclosure information is available, please list the type of information that is publicly available.**

The content of the asset declaration of politically exposed persons is publicly available, with the exception of those data that can harm (cause damage to) the life or property of the declarant and his family, such as the address of residence, registration numbers of vehicles, personal identification numbers, etc.

- d. Does accessing financial disclosure information entail any costs?**

No

- e. Does the publication of financial disclosure provide features to search information by different types of information, e.g., legally and beneficially held entities' names and business addresses, types of assets and interests? Please explain.**

- f. Do the means of enabling public access allow for a comparison of the targeted officials' assets and interests over a specific period?**

Yes

- g. Are any measures in place to protect the personal information of the targeted officials and their family members, when applicable? Please explain.**

See also answer 6.1.c.

- h. Please provide the link(s) to the online platform/resource where financial disclosure information is available to the public, if applicable.**

Politically exposed persons' asset declarations are publicly available through the website of the Hellenic Parliament.

See also: <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Organosi-kai-Leitourgia/epitropi-elegxou-ton-oikonomikon-ton-komaton-kai-ton-vouleftwn/dilosi-periousiakis-katastasis-arxiki>

- 6.2. Do the relevant competent national authorities (law enforcement, FIU, tax and customs authorities, etc.) have access to the financial disclosures? YES/YES IN PART/NO**

If YES or YES IN PART, please explain how such access is granted, including the list of competent national authorities that can access or request access.

## **7. Verification of financial disclosure information**

- 7.1. Is the information disclosed verified?**

Yes

If YES, please describe the procedures and practices in place to verify the content of financial disclosures, including:

- a. Competent authority that conducts the verification (centralized and/or delegated)**
- b. Frequency (regularity) of verifications (ad hoc and/or systematic and routine)**
- c. Extent of verification (verification of completeness, compliance with disclosure requirements and/or the analysis of the content of the disclosures)**
- d. Verification processes and methodologies (e.g., manual examination, electronic checks undertaken against other databases or relevant information, etc.)**

All the above

- 7.2. How does your country determine which disclosures to verify?**

- Annual verification plan(s)**
- Periodic mandatory verification of specific categories of officials**
- Random sampling of declarations**
- Media reports and/or complaints from the public**
- Requests from law enforcement / investigative units**
- Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**7.3.If applicable, does the electronic financial disclosure mechanism(s) allow for automated verification (cross-checking) of information across various registers and databases held by the public and private entities, such as registries of various assets, company registers, HR, tax and real estate data, etc.?**

Yes, please see also answer 4.2.1.

**7.4.Do the competent authorities have timely and direct access to databases and information necessary to verify information in the financial disclosure?**

In part, some Competent Authorities have direct access to the information needed. In some cases, they have to submit a relevant request to gain access. Direct access to databases will be available in the foreseeable future since it is currently under construction via interoperability services between all databases.

**7.5.Do competent authorities have access to the information held by financial institutions, including bank account records?**

Yes

**7.6.Please provide the overall verification rate of financial disclosures in percentages for each applicable verification method.**

## **8. Sanctions**

**8.1. Please provide an overview of sanctions for non-compliance with financial disclosure requirements, including the sanctionable conducts, type of sanctions, forms of sanctions (administrative/criminal) and targeted officials.**

An obliged person who fails to file the declaration sixty (60) days after the expiry of the deadline provided or files an inaccurate or incomplete declaration, shall be punished with imprisonment and a pecuniary penalty up to one hundred thousand (100.000) euros. The declaration is also inaccurate, when the declared assets or their increase are not justified by the legally acquired income of the obliged person of any kind. If the obliged person commits the offence of concealing an acquired asset valued over thirty thousand (30.000) euros, shall be punished with an imprisonment of at least two (2) years and a pecuniary penalty of ten thousand (10.000) to five hundred thousand (500.000) euros.

The perpetrator of the third subparagraph of the previous paragraph shall be punishable with incarceration (felony) of up to ten (10) years and a fine of twenty thousand (20.000) to one million (1.000.000) euros, if the total value of the undisclosed assets, owned by himself/herself and the other persons for whom he/she must file a declaration, exceeds, in total, the amount of three hundred thousand (300.000) euros, regardless of whether the non-disclosure is attempted by failing to file a declaration or filing an incomplete or inaccurate declaration.

**8.2. Is there any applicable statute of limitations?**

Yes, according to Greek Penal Code a felony has a 15 year-limitation.

**8.3. Please describe the powers available to the competent authority (responsible for verification of disclosures) to impose and enforce the sanctions described above.**

Only Judiciary Authorities can impose and enforce sanctions.

**9. International cooperation and asset recovery**

**9.1. Does your country (proactively or at the request of another State party) share financial disclosure information with foreign States? YES/NO**

**If YES, please describe the channels and mechanisms for cooperation.**

The Hellenic Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU - Unit A') of the Hellenic Anti-money Laundering Authority has sound international cooperation on the field of Money Laundering (ML), the predicate for Money Laundering offenses and Terrorism Financing (TF). The Hellenic FIU cooperates with its European and International counterparts (FIUs) via the safe channels of FIU.net (FIUs of the European Union member states) and EGMONT GROUP of FIUs (FIUs of approximately 165 states and jurisdictions). The cooperation described above, takes place both upon request or spontaneously and under the rules set by the channels mentioned above.

**9.2. Does your country cooperate and execute requests received from foreign authorities to assist them in the verification of information in their financial disclosures? YES/NO**

**If YES, please explain, including the channels used.**

As described above the Hellenic FIU cooperates routinely with its European and International counterparts (FIUs) including the verification of information on financial disclosure under the condition that the requesting FIU conducts an analysis for Money Laundering (ML), a predicate offense for Money Laundering offenses or Terrorism Financing (TF). Furthermore, the provided assistance that is the product of the analysis, is intelligence and CAN NOT be used as evidence before penal, civil or administrative procedures but still can assist states formulate and submit concrete Mutual Legal Assistance Requests to verify the intelligence gathered and use it as evidence at a future stage.

**9.3. If applicable, please provide the contact details of the authority responsible for the above types of international cooperation (for exchanging financial disclosure information):**

The contact details for the exchange of financial intelligence are those already set by the safe channels of FIU.net and EGMONT GROUP of FIUs. For other type of communication the E-mail addresses : 1. gr-fiu@hellenic-fiu.gr and 2. international-affairs@hellenic-fiu.gr, can be used.

## **10. Good practices**

**10.1. Please provide examples of any good practices in connection with your country's financial disclosure regime that facilitated the recovery and return of proceeds of crime.**

Concerning potential good practices in place to facilitate the recovery and proceed of crime from the Hellenic FIU perspective we would like to mention our extended freezing powers and the power to suspend transactions. More specifically, the President of the Hellenic FIU under art. 42 of Law 4557/2018 in urgent cases can freeze any type of assets that generates from crime related to ML/ML predicate offenses and TF ('permanent' freezing order that last nine (9) + nine (9) months). Furthermore, in case of urgency, the President of the Hellenic FIU can also issue freezing orders or suspend transaction/transactions for ML/ML predicate offenses and TF under art. 48 of Law 4557/2018. The Freezing orders under art. 48 last for fifteen (15) working days to permit from one hand the swift analysis of the case and from the other hand to ensure the assets. These powers can be also used upon request of an EU FIU under the same prerequisites.

The above powers, ensure that the criminal assets will not disappear, nor they will be dissipated, and facilitate their recovery by the competent Judicial Authorities.

**10.2. Do you have any case studies or examples where the financial disclosure regime has enabled or facilitated the recovery and return of proceeds of crime in (or for) your country?**

**Legal framework:**

The SFIU (Unit C) set up under the umbrella of the Hellenic AML Authority has the authority to conduct audits of the declarations of assets of obligated natural persons, for which there is high risk of misappropriating public or EU funds.

It aims at preventing and identifying cases of illicit enrichment and conflict of interest to a vast array (about 370 categories) of obliged persons among them public officials, higher members of the public and local administration but also other categories that the legislator included as highly risked of conducting the abovementioned crimes.

Some of these categories are:

- The Management of credit and financial institutions and investment firms
- Management board of athletic unions and referees
- Management, stakeholders of television and radio stations and journals.
- Journalists

In addition to other sanctions according to article 43 of the L. 5026/2023 (former art. 12 of L.3213/2003) the person convicted for violation of the applicable law shall be sentenced with a monetary fine up to the value of assets, acquired when there is no justification for the source of funds of that asset. The imputation is conducted in favor of the State by the competent department of the Court of Audit according to applicable provisions.

**Case study:**

As a result of an audit conducted by several competent authorities, including the SFIU, it has been found that a well-known journalist was the subject of illegal transactions carried out in the end of the first decade of 2000. As it has already been mentioned, as a journalist that individual fell under the provisions of financial disclosure so according to the law if the journalist (as an obliged person) could not justify the source of funds (in this case bank deposits) by legal income then the journalist should be subject to an imputation act that requires the full amount to be repaid.

As a result of this provision in 2016 the Hellenic Court of Audit decided to impute the sum of several millions of euros to the journalist as this amount considered to be the proceeds of crime that had to be recovered. This procedure took place independently of the imposition of penalties by other authorities (tax fines or penal conviction).

In addition to this case and as a result of the investigation of the SFIU for violations of the framework for asset declarations, several cases have already been sent to the Court of Auditors for possible imputation of fines related to illicit enrichment as mentioned above.

**10.3. Please provide examples of good practices concerning the operation of your country's financial disclosure system, including policies and measures adopted to enhance compliance with financial disclosure requirements.**

**11. Challenges**

**11.1. What were the main challenges faced by your country when introducing the financial disclosure system(s)?**

Declarants' unfamiliarity with Asset Declaration electronic submission.

**11.2. In your opinion, what are the main challenges faced by competent authorities of your country to verify financial disclosures, including accessing information regarding assets and financial interests located abroad?**

**11.3. What are the main challenges faced by your country when imposing and enforcing sanctions for non-compliance?**

**12. Follow-up to the special session of the general assembly against corruption**

**12.1. Please describe any other measures, if any, that your country may have taken to implement paragraph 72 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in June 2021.**

**13. Other**

**13.1. Please provide any other information you consider relevant to your country's legal framework and practices in connection with establishing an effective financial disclosure system that is not highlighted in the questions above.**

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<sup>2</sup> 7. We will strengthen our efforts to prevent, identify and manage conflicts of interest, including by assessing and mitigating corruption risks and through effective and transparent financial disclosure systems, with information disclosed by appropriate public officials made available as widely as possible, and we will use innovative and digital technology in this field, with due regard for data protection and privacy rights.