AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction 09:00 – 09:15

Objectives of the meeting and presentation of the agenda, housekeeping points (Floriana Sipala, Head of Unit Organised Crime and Drugs Policy, DG HOME, European Commission; Frédéric Pierson, Europol)

2. EU legislative initiatives 09:15 – 09:30

Ute Stiegel, Deputy Head of Unit, and Sebastiano Tiné, Organised Crime and Drugs Policy Unit, DG HOME

- Update on the proposal for a Directive on the use of financial and other information
- State of play of the preparation of the report on the interconnection of centralised bank account registries
- Staff Working Document on non-conviction based confiscation measures in the EU

3. The future of Asset recovery Offices 09:30 – 11:00

Discussion on the future of the Asset Recovery Offices (based on discussion paper)

Coffee Break: 11:00 – 11:30

4. Operational information exchange between Asset Recovery Offices 11:30 – 12:10

The Europol Focal point on asset recovery and the use of the SIENA System (Frédéric Pierson, Europol)

Harmonisation of bank statements – update on the Action under the EU Policy Cycle
Asset recovery cases (*tbc*)

Exchange of views (All)

5. Recent developments in the Member States and neighbouring countries 12:10 – 12:50

Delegates are expected to report on developments on asset recovery in their country, eg new legislation, new structures, court cases, international cooperation, statistics, etc.

Lunch Break 12:50 – 14:20

Coffee served after the lunch

6. Peer review visits assessing the effectiveness of EU AROs and expert missions 14:20 – 15:00

Discussion of the reports of past Peer review missions to Lithuania, Greece, Finland and Slovakia

Calendar of further Peer Reviews – visiting teams

7. Enhancing the ARO cooperation with the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans countries 15:00 – 15:40

Update on the state of play on establishing Asset Recovery Offices in the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans countries (Representatives of the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries)

8. New investigative tools for the identification of beneficial ownership - the EBOCS project 15:40 – 16:00

Outcomes of the EBOCS BETA testing and next steps of the project (representative of the European Business Registry Association) (*tbc*)

Discussion (All)

9. Conclusions and closing of the meeting 16:00 – 16:15

DG HOME, Europol

*************************************************
Operational session on asset tracing (16:15 – 17:30)

This session will be chaired by Europol and restricted to AROs and law enforcement agencies. The discussion will cover ongoing cases and common challenges for investigators (*Europol to complete*).