



FREEDOM LEGALITY AND RIGHTS IN EUROPE

Press release

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Confiscation and social use of criminal assets “a concrete countermeasure”, says Cecilia Malmström

At a public hearing on June 19, the Swedish Commissioner-designate for home affairs stated the importance to begin considering confiscation and re-use of criminal assets for social purposes in the fight against organised crime in Europe

At the public hearing in place on January 19 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Ms Cecilia Malmstrom - Commissioner-designate for home affairs - answered questions about a wide range of topics.

MEP Rita Borsellino (S&D, IT) questioned Ms Malmström about the urgent need to improve the fighting against organised crime on a continental level. Ms Malmström said she would work with Viviane Reding, Commissioner-designate for justice, on the issue of confiscating mafia assets.

Ms Malmstrom said "this is not just an Italian problem but a European one, because organised crime knows no borders".

Ms Malmström also added how important it would be "to start working on the model of confiscation and social re-use of criminal assets", a model in place in Italy for over 15 years now and that resulted to be a very efficient approach for involving civil society in the fight against organised crime.

Mr Claude Moraes, contacted earlier today by FLARE, stated: "To confiscate the assets of organised crime and to use them for social purposes could become a truly efficient measure in the fight against organised crime at a European level. On this matter, the Italian experience is a great inspiration."

In the meantime, the third General Assembly of the FLARE Network took place on January 18 in Bari, Italy. On this occasion, Ms Monica Frassoni – former co-chair of the European Greens–European Free Alliance group in the European Parliament - accepted to become the very first Onorary Member of FLARE Network.

"The path you began two years ago revealed to be the right one – said Frassoni to FLARE members. "Your cooperation with European institutions has to continue now and I am honoured to give you my support", added Frassoni.

About FLARE

FLARE - Freedom, Legality And Rights in Europe - is a network made of civil society organizations for a common strive against mafias and transnational organised crime. Those who adhere to the FLARE Network are associations for youth promotion and non-governmental organizations. They are ideally active in fields such as youth promotion, fight against women and child sexual exploitation, environmental protection, human rights defence, fight against corruption, support to migrants and refugees. Such organizations come from the areas of Europe, Mediterranean basin, Russian Federation, Caucasus and Balkans. For more info, visit www.flarenetwork.org.

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