

LORD BRETT



Minister in the Government Whips Office
Government Spokesperson for the Home Office

The Right Honourable the Lord Skelmesdale
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

26 January 2009

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Skelmesdale".

I am writing regarding the debate on 7 December 2009 on the Report of the House of Lords European Union Committee into Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism.

I promised to write on some matters which were raised by you, but which I was not able to address during the debate.

During the debate you called on the Government to name and shame EU member states that had not yet implemented the 2001 Protocol to the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. This information is already publicly available; Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg have yet to ratify the relevant Convention or its Protocol. The UK Government continues to believe that this Convention and its Protocol are important tools in the fight against transnational and international crime and will continue to seek ratification of them by all member States.

You asked to see a list of non-EU countries with which the UK is negotiating Asset Sharing Agreements. The Government continues to keep its asset recovery relations with other states under review. Communications with foreign governments on asset recovery agreements are confidential in order to preserve the confidence of the other state(s), as well as our own position in potential treaty or agreement negotiations.

A copy of this letter will be deposited in the library of the House.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lord Brett".

LORD BRETT

House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW. Telephone: 0207 219 6151