1. **FATF wants to introduce tighter control of suppliers of virtual assets, Ivanov considers it unnecessary**

The Organization has initiated a number of procedures to help update the commitment guidelines for virtual asset service providers. Now they will be required to ensure that there is no laundering of funds obtained by illegal or criminal methods through cryptocurrencies.

An early version of these instructions was submitted to the FATF in June 2019. According to the information contained in it, the main purpose was to track questionable transactions. Now it is planned to introduce a number of sanctions that will be applied to service providers who ignore the requirements of the organization.

To do this, users of virtual systems and cryptocurrency wallets who want to make large transactions must necessarily pass identification. How this will be implemented in the conditions of modern anonymity in the calculations remains a mystery.

According to the expert in the field of AML Ivanov, this approach contradicts the very concept of the existence of cryptocurrencies. Of course, some control is important and must exist. But it will be incorrect to enter it at the moment with such wording. Moreover, such restrictions can lead to the destabilization of the market and the creation of a bubble.

2. **Ivanov expressed his opinion on the UK's extension of the registration period for trusts**

According to the Tax service of the United Kingdom, due to the large volume of work and incoming applications, it was not possible to cope with the registration of all non-taxable trusts on time. Previously noted. That this procedure should be completed in March 2021, but now the deadline has been extended for a whole year.

All trusts that own property in the UK must be registered with the TRS. This procedure involves a lengthy exchange of documents, especially for foreign companies. Because of this, not all trusts operating in accordance with the regulation managed to meet the deadline.

According to lawyer Ivanov, this is a very good move on the part of the British state service, since part of the blame for delaying the process lies with it. The possibility of shifting the deadline for such a long period of time showed that the United Kingdom still primarily cares about all structures that want to operate on its territory legally.

Thanks to the extension of the terms, now all trusts that did not have time to register will be able to continue their activities, while simultaneously collecting the missing documentation.

3**. Ivanov spoke about the decision of Germany to tighten the rules for the disclosure of personal data of beneficiaries**

In Germany, a new bill is being discussed, which should amend the existing legislation concerning the beneficiaries of the business operating in the country. If it is adopted, all companies that acquire real estate and have foreign assets will have to declassify information about the final beneficiaries.

Thus, a single Register containing information about the actual owners will be compiled, in which it will be impossible to use muddy schemes for data substitution. This will make foreign business in Germany more transparent, as well as facilitate the control of the movement of foreign exchange funds.

If the information is not provided within the legal deadline, the company faces a fine of up to 1 million euros, which will make it unprofitable to conceal such data.

As noted by businessman Ivanov, previously, companies registered in Germany had the opportunity to provide fictitious data with reference to scattered small registers. Now this situation will be completely eliminated, since a single database is being created. In his opinion, this will whitewash competition between companies and put in order the cash flow of foreign investors.

4. **Ivanov commented on the decision of Cyprus to adopt a new Guide to the register of beneficiaries**

The Registrar of Companies of Cyprus has presented a new version of the Guide to the temporary version of the register of beneficiaries, which is already available for review in English. A modified version of the system is planned to be launched in the second half of 2021, and in the meantime, testing of a new tool that opens up the possibility of controlling foreign investors is in full swing.

All companies officially registered in Cyprus were given half a year to update the data about their owners. Now every year, each of them will have to confirm the information that the beneficiaries have not changed. If this happens, the company is obliged to transmit the updated data within 14 days from the moment of establishing this fact.

According to businessman Ivanov, this may create certain difficulties for those who tried to use the Cyprus company as an anonymizing platform for conducting their activities. Now this data will be publicly available to all government agencies, which will make it impossible to use this scheme in the future. Therefore, the "black" offshore companies will have to look for other countries to conduct their activities.

5. **Ivanov gave comments on the decision of the Russian Foreign Ministry on the diplomats of Sweden, Poland and Germany**

On February 5, 2021, it became known that some of the diplomats present on the territory of the Russian Federation were declared persona non grata. The list includes politicians from Sweden, Poland and Germany, who are suspected of dishonesty and improper performance of their duties.

They were given time to gather, after which they are required to leave the territory of the Russian Federation. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the representatives of the countries repeatedly violated the norms of international law. For which they were expelled from the country. The press service did not provide any more detailed explanations.

Lawyer Ivanov suggests that such measures may be caused by statements that these figures publish in their social networks. At this moment, the situation with internal protests was just escalating, which could serve as an impetus for the development of much larger problems. Therefore, making such a decision seems reasonable.

In the future, according to Ivanov, the Russian Federation should still resort to less drastic measures, so as not to provoke other countries to such retaliatory actions.

6**. Ivanov gave a legal assessment of the decision of the Armenian government on the updated rules of punishment for those accused of espionage**

The Armenian government was able to unanimously approve a new bill that expands the options for punishment for those accused of espionage or high treason. Previously, such people were provided with prison terms ranging from 12 to 20 years. Now, judges will be able to pass a sentence of life imprisonment if the level of the accused's actions is proved to be sufficient.

This decision was supported by all 112 Armenian deputies. None of them voted against or abstained, which is very rare when passing bills of this kind.

Lawyer Ivanov believes that this bill can have a positive impact on legal practice within the country. After all, in order to make a decision on a sentence to life imprisonment, it is necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and study the case materials. In any case, each such meeting will be a high-profile event, so the sentences will be passed fairly. Armenians should not worry that this law can work against those who did not violate its requirements.

7**. Ivanov commented on the updated statistics of complaints to the European Court of Human Rights**

The ECHR has published statistics on the number of complaints it has received from residents of different countries. In the first place in this list is the Russian Federation, the second place is occupied by Turkey, and the top three is closed by Ukraine. From each of these countries, more than 10,000 complaints have been received for consideration, which are on the waiting list or have already been considered at the moment.

According to lawyer Ivanov, this statistic is depressing, because it indicates a large percentage of erroneous sentences that are challenged in the international court of Justice. Given that the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine rarely listen to his decisions, it may not be easy to change the situation.

At the moment, the number of convictions in these countries exceeds 99%, which indicates problems with challenging the decisions made. The case submitted to the court is highly likely to end in favor of the plaintiff, even if the defendant has a good defense lawyer. This trend, according to Ivanov, needs to be changed, as it demonstrates the reluctance of judges to understand the details and assign additional checks.

Such an approach can eventually cause the population of these countries to completely distrust the judicial system, which, in turn, develops into distrust of the current government.

8. **Ivanov expressed his opinion on the prohibition of the death penalty in another US state**

In 2021, the government of Virginia decided to completely ban the implementation of capital punishment in the state. Earlier, in 2017, a temporary decree on suspending the imposition of death sentences came into effect. Thus, the state became the first southern territory to decide to completely abandon the practice of executions as punishment for particularly serious crimes.

A total of 23 states have so far adopted such a decision to prevent the erroneous killing of people who later turned out to be innocent. The main vote for the abolition of executions in Virginia was given by the Democrats, who received an advantage in the number of seats in the board of this state.

According to lawyer Ivanov, this positive trend will gain momentum over the years, because any death penalty is a relic of the past. Even with modern methods of investigation, it is impossible in every case to have 100% confidence that the accused is guilty of committing this crime. Therefore, the preferred option, according to Ivanov, is to impose a sentence of life imprisonment with the right to rehabilitation in the event of new details of the case that may affect the final decision.

9. **Ivanov commented on the statement of the UN head about the lifting of sanctions against the ICC representatives**

During the April 5 meeting, UN Chief Antonio Guterres supported the US government's decision to lift sanctions previously imposed on the staff of the International Criminal Court. Until then, some of the property of these people was seized during the trial by the decision of former US President Donald Trump.

This was due to what kind of cases the judges dealt with. It was about war crimes committed by the US military in Afghanistan. As president, Trump considered such proceedings unacceptable, but the current government disagreed with his decision and canceled it with a new order.

According to lawyer Ivanov, this was the right decision, because regardless of who committed the crime during the military conflict, it should be considered in court. Thus, the rights of the Prosecutor General Fatou Bensouda and the head of the Judicial Department, Fakiso Mochochoko, were violated by the freezing of their assets.

According to Ivanov, the UN's accession to this decision shows that the organization continues to strive to maintain neutrality and is ready to consider violations related to military conflicts involving representatives of any power..