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Dr A.W Duthler
Chairman, Standing Committee for Security and Justice
Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal
Binnenhof 22
Postbus 20017
2500 EA Den Haag
The Netherlands

17th December 2013

Re: E130034 - Proposal for a directive on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by means of criminal law, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2000/282JHA

Your Ref: (COM (2013) 42)
152330.04u

Dear Dr Duthler,

Thank you for your letter of 5th December in which you set out the position of the Dutch Government, and endorsed by your Committee, regarding the use of minimum penalties as drafted by the European Commission in the proposed Directive on the protection of the Euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by means of criminal law.

My Report has amended the Commission proposal to remove all references to minimum penalties and, where appropriate, replaced them with maximum levels of minimum sanctions. The Report was passed by the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee in the European Parliament this morning. The amended text was approved by the Committee with 46 votes in favour, none against and two abstentions.

It is my understanding that the Council also holds a strong majority against minimum penalties. Therefore, I am confident that dialogue negotiations, scheduled to begin in January will produce a satisfactory result in removing minimum sanctions from the Directive.

Yours sincerely

P.P. *Anthea McIntyre*

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