PRACTICAL GUIDE · ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING REGULATION · 2026

AML6: what really changes

Understand the 2024 regulatory package, anticipate the new KYC/KYB obligations and get ready before 10 July 2027.

6 chapters | 12 min read | 2026 Edition

> The AML 2024 package marks the end of an era: one where each Member State applied anti-money laundering rules in its own way. From now on, a single rulebook, a supranational authority and harmonised penalties apply to every obliged entity in Europe. Here is what you need to understand and what you need to do before **10 July 2027**.

1 What is "AML6"?

The term "AML6" is misleading. What people call it is in fact **a package of 3 separate texts**, adopted simultaneously by the European Union in June 2024 and not just another directive.

> **NOT TO BE CONFUSED**
>
> The criminal directive 2018/1673 (also known as "6AMLD") covered only the **criminalisation of money laundering**. The AML 2024 package is a far broader structural overhaul that affects the operational obligations of every obliged entity.

The 3 texts of the AML 2024 package

AMLR REGULATION

Harmonised KYC/KYB obligations

Directly applicable in all Member States on the same day, with no possible national transposition. This is the core of the new operational obligations.

AMLD6 DIRECTIVE

The supervision framework and registers

Beneficial ownership registers, Financial Intelligence Units, coordination between national supervisors. To be transposed into each national law.

AMLA REGULATION

The new European watchdog

The European Anti-Money Laundering Authority, based in Frankfurt. Operational since July 2025, it took over the EBA's AML/CFT mandates on 1 January 2026 and will begin direct supervision of the most exposed players from 2028.

> **The Travel Rule (4th text):** it makes the traceability of every crypto-asset transfer mandatory across the EU - originator, beneficiary, amount. It applies to every crypto-asset service provider (PSAP/VASP) and completes the framework.

2 The timeline to remember

The texts were published in the EU Official Journal in June 2024. Implementation rolls out in several stages, with an absolute deadline in 2027.

19 June 2024

Publication in the EU Official Journal

The 3 texts of the AML 2024 package officially enter into force upon publication.

1 July 2025

AMLA becomes operational in Frankfurt

The European Anti-Money Laundering Authority is operational and begins its standardisation work.

1 January 2026

EBA's AML/CFT mandates transfer to AMLA

The European Banking Authority (EBA) formally hands over all its anti-money laundering mandates to AMLA, which publishes its first multi-year work programme in early 2026.

10 July 2027

Mandatory application across Europe

The AMLR Regulation enters into force simultaneously in all Member States. Absolute deadline for compliance - no exemption possible. That same year, AMLA finalises its methodology and selects the cross-border financial groups most exposed to risk.

2028

AMLA begins direct supervision

AMLA starts directly supervising around forty high-risk financial players, in coordination with national regulators (such as the FCA in the UK or ACPR/AMF in France).

2029

Entry into force for professional football

Clubs and player agents fall within scope, with an extra grace period to adapt their processes.

⚠ **Fewer than 12 months.** 10 July 2027 is a legal date, not a recommendation. Any entity that is not compliant by then is immediately exposed to the new penalties.

3 What actually changes

Four major shifts structure this regulatory package. They affect entity obligations, the sectors in scope and the governance of supervision at European level.

Harmonised KYC/KYB rules across Europe

No more divergences between Member States. Due diligence, internal control and identification obligations apply simultaneously through the regulation - the same standard everywhere.

A European watchdog: AMLA

Based in Frankfurt and operational since July 2025, AMLA took over the EBA's AML/CFT mandates on 1 January 2026 and will directly supervise the most exposed players from 2028, coordinating with national regulators.

Crypto-assets brought into the mainstream

Crypto-asset service providers now face the same KYC obligations as banks. The Travel Rule requires traceability of every transfer across the EU.

New sectors brought under scope

The scope of the regulation widens to non-financial sectors exposed to money laundering risk that were previously little or not regulated.

The new sectors in scope

- Luxury jewellery & watches
- Vehicles & prestige cars
- Yachts & private jets
- Golden visa & residence-by-investment
- Professional football (from 2029)

Cash cap: A European threshold of **€10,000** is introduced for cash payments between businesses. Above this, mandatory checks and a declaration to the authorities are required.

4 Beneficial owners

The central question of AML6: **who is really behind a company?** The package significantly tightens the requirements to identify and keep beneficial owner information up to date.

Who can access the registers?

UNLIMITED ACCESS

Competent authorities and obliged entities (banks, lawyers, notaries, accountants...) retain unlimited access to beneficial ownership registers across Europe, with no justification required.

Journalists and NGOs: They can access the registers if they demonstrate a legitimate interest, with criteria now harmonised across Europe. No more divergences between Member States on this point.

BORIS: the European interconnection of registers

National beneficial ownership registers will be interconnected through the **BORIS** (Beneficial Ownership Registers Interconnection System) system. Authorities and obliged entities will be able to run cross-border checks in real time.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Verifying beneficial owners can no longer be a one-off exercise. It must become **continuous and traceable** : identification at onboarding, regular updates, documentation of every check. This is a deep transformation of onboarding processes.

5 The penalties

AML6 introduces significantly higher and harmonised penalty thresholds for **serious, repeated or systematic** breaches of anti-money laundering obligations.

€1,000,000

Minimum fine, or twice the profit gained from the breach if higher

For **financial institutions**, penalties can reach a significant percentage of annual turnover - well beyond the one-million-euro floor.

The 4 main exposure areas

- Failure to identify or update beneficial owners
- Lack of enhanced due diligence on a high-risk client or transaction
- Failure to report a suspicious transaction to the competent authorities
- Non-compliance with the Travel Rule on crypto-asset transfers

⚠ These penalties come **on top of** existing national frameworks. National regulators (such as ACPR and AMF in France) can already issue major sanctions - AML6 strengthens their arsenal without replacing it.

6 How to get ready

Time is short. Here are the five priority actions to carry out before 10 July 2027 to secure your compliance.

- **Align your KYC/KYB policies with the new requirements**
  Audit your current procedures against the AMLR Regulation. Identify the gaps and prioritise the remediation workstreams ahead of the deadline.

- **Update your beneficial owner processes**
  Move from one-off checks to systematic identification, with regular updates of beneficial owners and a full audit trail for every check.

- **Integrate the Travel Rule (if you handle crypto-assets)**
  Implement the mechanisms to collect and transmit identity data on every crypto-asset transfer within the EU.

- **Check whether your sector is newly in scope**
  Luxury, golden visa, residence/citizenship intermediaries: check whether your activity falls within the new perimeter and which obligations actually apply.

- **Train your teams on the new obligations**
  Compliance, legal, onboarding, risk: the changes affect several functions. Launch training now to absorb the shift in time.

WHAT CHANGES FUNDAMENTALLY

Less "one-shot" KYC, more traceability. Less self-declared data, more data integration. **Those who industrialise their KYC/KYB, beneficial owner management and continuous monitoring now will gain a double advantage:** secured compliance and lower operational cost over the long term.

KYC/KYB compliance ready for AML6

The AML 2024 package mandates **continuous, traceable and harmonised compliance** across Europe. Meelo lets you industrialise this compliance today without overloading your teams.

KYC verification in seconds

AI + 400+ signals, behavioural and document analysis, instant fraud score. Result in under 2 seconds.

KYB & beneficial owner identification

Dual AI scoring (company + representative), continuous verification and update of beneficial owners in under 5 seconds.

Dynamic risk scoring (EDD)

Aligned with enhanced due diligence requirements, continuously updated against each client's evolving risk profile.

Full audit trail

Automatic documentation of every check, full traceability, ready-to-use regulatory export for your auditors.

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CONFORMITÉ · 2027

The transformation is structural. The deadline is not.

Meelo lets you industrialise your KYC/KYB compliance, your beneficial owner management and your continuous monitoring so you are ready before 10 July 2027.

Book a demo →