

Information in regard to "Politically Exposed Persons" (PEP)

Pursuant to § 10 Section 1 No. 4 of the Money Laundering Act (GWG), notaries are obliged to establish whether the contracting parties or beneficial owners in connection with the intended notarisation are a politically exposed person, a family member or a known close relative of them.

According to § 1 para. 12 GWG, a politically exposed person (PEP) is any person who exercises or has exercised a high-ranking important public office at international, European or national level or exercises or has exercised a public office below national level whose political significance is comparable.

Politically exposed persons include in particular persons who hold the following functions:

- heads of state, heads of government, ministers (in Berlin Senator), members of the European Commission, deputy ministers (in Berlin Deputy Senator) and state secretaries
- members of parliament and members of comparable legislative bodies,
- members of the governing bodies of political parties,
- members of supreme courts of justice, constitutional courts or other high courts, whose decisions are normally no longer subject to appeal
- members of the management bodies of SAIs,
- members of the governing bodies of central banks,
- ambassadors, business leaders and defense attachés,
- members of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies of state-owned enterprises,
- directors, deputy directors, members of the governing body or other managers with a similar function in an intergovernmental international or European organization.

A person who has not held any important public office within the meaning of the above activities for at least one year shall no longer be considered politically exposed.

Family member is a close relative of a politically exposed person, in particular

- the spouse or registered partner,
- a child and his/her spouse or registered partner, and
- each parent.

A known close person within the meaning of the law is a natural person where there is reason to believe that this person

- together with a politically exposed person
 - a. is the beneficial owner of an association according to § 20 paragraph 1 GWG (legal entities under private law and registered partnerships as well as associations with their registered office abroad) or
 - b. is the beneficial owner of a legal arrangement pursuant to § 21 GWG (trusts and trustees of non-legally capable foundations and legal arrangements which correspond to such foundations in their structure or function)
- maintains other close business relations with a politically exposed person or
- sole beneficial owner of
 - a. an association according to § 20 paragraph 1 GWG or
 - b. a legal arrangement pursuant to § 21 GWG, where there is reason to believe that the establishment was de facto for the benefit of a politically exposed person.

Please inform the notary public immediately if you are a politically exposed person, a family member of a politically exposed person or a person close to a politically exposed person in the sense of the above explanations.

Please note that you are obliged to cooperate in this respect. In this case, the notary public will have to request further information from you.

Thank you for your understanding. Your notary public

Dr. Stephan Szalai, LL.M.