



To ensure the sale of seized and confiscated assets at optimal prices

Sale of assets seized before judgment

The Agency alone is competent to sell assets seized prior to judgment when they are no longer necessary to uncover the truth and have no identified owner or are likely to depreciate in value.

Centralized management of sums of money seized

The Agency alone is competent to manage sums of money seized in the course of criminal proceedings. These sums of money are placed in an account opened by the Agency with the Caisse des dépôts et consignations which bears interest at the deposit rate.

Managing complex assets

The Agency may be entrusted by Prosecutors and Judges with the task of managing complex assets, i.e assets requiring administration



Improving the compensation of civil claimants in criminal proceedings and informing public creditors

Improving compensation of civil claimants in criminal proceedings

The Agency may compensate civil claimants in criminal proceedings by giving priority ranking to their claims over assets which have been definitively confiscated under a final order handed down by a court of trial.

Informing public creditors

The agency may inform public creditors, before the return of any non-confiscated assets, in order to ensure payment of any fiscal, customs or social debt.



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A body designed to assist members of the Judiciary to efficiently fight the underground economy





Stepping up the fight against the underground economy

The underground economy has grown significantly over the past years. Even if figures in this field are still somewhat approximate, experts estimate that the recycled proceeds of criminal activities are in the region of 1.200 billion euros, more than 500 billion of which come from drug trafficking.

Beyond the macroeconomic effects of dirty money, which may destabilize entire regions and even States, the fight against the underground economy has become a vital necessity in our countries for two additional reasons:

- ✓ firstly it demonstrates to criminals and those around them that crime does not pay by hitting them where it hurts, namely their assets;
- ✓ secondly it prevents the commission of further offences. Dirty money helps to finance numerous offences and crimes, from corruption to terrorism.

These are the main reasons for the implementation of the 9th of July 2010 legislation and for the setting up of the AGRASC (ARMSCA, Agency for the Recovery and Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets), one of the measures introduced to equip French law with up-to-date methods of dealing with criminal seizures and confiscations.

The AGRASC is vested with various tasks all designed to improve the seizure, management and subsequent confiscation and sale of crime-related assets.

Going beyond its various tasks, some of which have been mentioned in this presentation leaflet, it also has a general task of lending assistance to Prosecutors and Judges both as regards national matters and as part of international cooperation.

On top of its operational missions (ie. publishing the seizures of properties in the name of Prosecutors and Judges), the agency will have to make a report every year on its activity which will suggest improvements to be made in the law and the proceedings of seizure and confiscation.

Questions/Answers

What is the status of the AGRASC?

The Agency is a public administrative body placed under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Budget.

The President of the Board of Administration and its Director General are members of the Judiciary. The Secretary general comes from the Ministry of the Budget.

At the time of its beginning, the Agency comprises ten agents from these two Ministries and also from the Home office.

How is the Agency financed?

One of the original aspects of the Agency is the manner of its financing. The AGRASC is designed to be self-financing to the greatest possible extent.

It will therefore be financed:

- ✓ by part of the proceeds of the sale of confiscated assets when they have been managed or sold by the Agency;
- ✓ by the proceeds of the investment with the Caisse des dépôts et consignations of monies seized or coming from the management of the assets entrusted to it for such purposes.