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While the research report for the ministry focused on the Netherlands solely, this book tries to incorporate a comparative perspective, by also bringing in money laundering cases from Australia and other countries. Australia is interesting because it is of about the same economic size as the Netherlands. It has a very special location because it is surrounded by a ring of islands of unrest, crime and money laundering, and therefore is an attractive transit country for launderers. Nauru, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands are some of these islands, just to name a few.

The findings of this project received widespread attention in the Dutch media. I am grateful to the Dutch journalists, whose expertise and professionalism allowed a serious public debate. I hope that this book will contribute to enhance the debate between different academic disciplines.