Dear Colleague,

Over the last thirty-eight years, the Cambridge Symposium has established itself as a unique vehicle for promoting, at a truly international level, greater understanding of the real and practical issues involved in preventing and controlling economic crime, corruption and abuse and thereby facilitating meaningful co-operation. The programme for our thirty-eighth symposium has been designed on the advice of agencies and individuals with real and current involvement in identifying and controlling the risks, particularly to those who mind other people’s wealth, presented by criminal and subversive activity.

While we attempt to cover a broad range of topical issues the central theme for this year’s programme is who ends up paying for economically motivated crime and how we can better mediate the costs involved. Even in the case of direct victims where a company is at risk there will be complex issues involving stakeholders. The indirect costs of economic crime may ripple across an economy and harm those who are particularly vulnerable in our societies. There is also the very real perception, which may often sadly be the reality that crime does pay - so how can we better address this issue? These are concerns at the very heart of our criminal justice systems and the complex web of responsibility that we have created outside the criminal law whether in terms of civil accountability or compliance. As in previous years we will also address in plenary sessions, but also in specific workshops, a host of other issues related to economically motivated crime and misconduct and the risks that face our economies and the stability of our financial and trading systems. The emphasis is always on the practical aspects and how we might better manage risk and achieve more effective results whether in terms of disruption or through more conventional legal, regulatory and compliance procedures. Therefore, well over 700 experts from around the world will share their experience and knowledge with other participants drawn from policy makers, law enforcement, compliance, regulation, business and the professions.

In considering how to better discourage and control economic crime we examine the real threats facing our economies not just from criminals and terrorists, but also indirectly as a result of law enforcement and regulatory intervention. We also context these risks and the responses not only in terms of the law, but also regulation and especially compliance practice. Therefore in every specialist panel or workshop there is an array of relevant practical experience and expertise. In recent years the symposium has attracted well over 1,800 participants from over 100 countries. Just spend a few minutes to look through the 38th Symposium programme which is unique in its topicality, depth, relevance and expertise. The symposium is not an ordinary conference - it was conceived to fulfil a very practical purpose which is even more relevant today than ever. By promoting understanding of the issues that we all face in preventing and controlling economically motivated crime, we are better able to co-operate and render ours and others’ actions more effective and efficient in addressing what are invariably common risks. Consequently, we make every effort to foster networking and promoting meaningful co-operation.

The annual symposium over the last thirty-eight years has brought together in one of the oldest medieval Colleges of the University of Cambridge, ministers, legislators, senior officials, diplomats, judges, regulators, law enforcement, intelligence and security officers, financial intermediaries, bankers, professional advisers, compliance and risk officers and researchers from around the world. This programme is structured to provide a depth and breadth of opportunity - second to none, for those participating in the symposium to be alerted, not only of existing, but also new threats, and how best to address them. The Cambridge Symposium is not and has never been just a conference. It is organised on a non-profit making basis by some of the world’s most respected academic and research institutions with the active involvement and support of numerous governmental and inter-governmental bodies. Those who are concerned to protect and promote the integrity and wellbeing of their national economy, institution or enterprise – or who are concerned to better understand the risks facing business today, cannot afford to miss this very special event.

In launching this year’s programme in the face of a pandemic, on the best advice obtainable, we remain very optimistic that the 38th symposium will take place as scheduled. Of course, if much nearer the time there are still widespread concerns as to the advisability and practicality of continuing as planned then we will make adjustments. However, do let me assure you that if, which seems extremely unlikely it proves necessary to postpone the programme, those who have registered will be refunded what they have paid. Sadly, those who are minded to exploit and abuse our economies and institutions do not appear inhibited by COVID-19 and our obligation to resist and discourage them remains and given the impact on all our economies of this tragedy, no one can afford to be complacent. Indeed, we need to strengthen co-operation and collaboration and participation in the symposium provides a vehicle at a much needed time.

We have made every effort to draw together the widest possible variety of experts from a broad range of disciplines and organisations - all with very real knowledge and experience. The organisers are well aware of the value to participants in meeting and discussing particular problems with colleagues on an informal basis. Consequently, through the programme of workshops and in particular during the social activities and in the think tanks, there is considerable scope for discussing specific and particular issues. The registration fee covers participation in the main programme, the workshops, extensive documentation, lunch and dinner in College. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact either myself at Jesus College, or Mrs Angela Futter (telephone +44 (0)1223 872160 or +44 (0)7950 047259, e-mail info@crimesymposium.org).

If you are not in a position to attend the Symposium this year, but would like to be kept informed of other programmes run by CIDOEC and other organising institutions, please do contact us. We would also be most grateful if you could pass the Symposium programme to any colleague who you think might be interested in participating.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Professor Barry A.K. Rider OBE, Executive Director and Co-Chairman of the Symposium