



CO-CHAIRS STATEMENT

22nd PLENARY OF THE EGMONT GROUP OF FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS

The Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) met this week in Lima, Peru to discuss the challenges faced by FIUs in combating money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing, especially in the areas of international cooperation, information sharing and the improved development of financial intelligence. The Egmont Plenary, held annually, brings together the Egmont member FIUs, Observer organizations, and guests for in-depth discussions, Egmont working group meetings and training sessions on relevant topics in order to further the development of the international FIU network as well as assist FIUs in meeting their mandates.

The 22nd Egmont Group Plenary was opened by the Prime Minister of Peru, Mr Rene Cornejo who stressed the importance of, and highlighted Peru's efforts, in combating money laundering, associated predicated offences and terrorist financing.

- The Plenary was attended by almost 320 participants.
- They represented 115 FIUs from jurisdictions and 15 international organizations.

The Plenary was co-chaired by Mr Murray Michell, Chair, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units as well as the Director of the Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa and Mr. Sergio Espinosa, Head of Financial Intelligence Unit of Peru (UIF-Peru) and gracious host. An opening address by Mr Murray Michell highlighted the important role the Egmont Group plays in combating money laundering, associated predicated offences and terrorist financing.

The Chair of the Egmont Group stated that, "UIF-Peru joined the Egmont Group in 2005 and has been a very active and respected member ever since. The FIU has been described as the 'leading force' in Peru's efforts to combat money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing. Moreover, UIF-Peru has played a prominent role in the development of other FIUs within the Americas."

The Co-Chairs congratulated the FIUs of:

- Angola, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Ghana, Jamaica, Namibia, Sint Maarten and Tanzania who were endorsed as new members of the Egmont Group during the meeting¹.

The Chair of the Egmont Group noted that these new members will strengthen the global network of information sharing in AML/CFT efforts.

The Plenary audience heard the Keynote Address from:

- Mr Raymond Baker of Global Financial Integrity who spoke about the impact of illicit financial flows. Mr Baker's address provided food for thought to all participants.

The Plenary also received presentations from FATF, GAFISUD, UNODC, University of Toronto - Munk School of Global Affairs and the World Bank on topics of interest related to FIUs.

In accordance with the mandate in the Egmont Charter adopted by Heads of FIU (HoFIU) in July 2013, the HoFIU approved:

- an Egmont Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017),
- a new Support and Compliance process,
- a revised membership procedure; and,
- a revised regional footprint, responding to the call from the HoFIU for greater cooperation with the FATF- Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs).

In accordance with the Egmont Charter, Egmont formalized its engagement with 18 Observer organizations and Observers actively participated in plenary discussions on the Egmont Group Strategic Plan and the Support and Compliance process. The Egmont Group recognized, as a result of limited resources, that cooperation and collaboration are required among all AML/CFT partners.

The Plenary audience also discussed challenges associated with implementation of the Egmont Group standards and received presentation from Egmont Group FIUs on their experiences undergoing mutual evaluations based on the 2012 FATF Recommendations for AML/CFT and the Egmont Group IT, Legal, Operational, Outreach and Training Working Groups provided reports back to the Plenary on their ongoing work.

The HoFIU, consistent with the Egmont Compliance Procedures:

- expelled FIU-Syria from the Egmont Group for continued non-payment of membership contributions.

¹ As of 5 June 2014, 146 FIUs are members of the Egmont Group

Egmont Regional Representatives met with representatives of FATF and FSRBs. The main focus of the meeting was to share information on the aims, objectives and development of regional FIU forums, as well as the challenges being faced in each region with respect to implementing the FATF Recommendations (2012). The commonalities were noted and drew a proposal for a joint meeting of the FSRB Secretariats, the Egmont Group and the chairs of the various regional FIU forums to discuss matters of mutual interest and possible solutions.

Six training sessions were held throughout the plenary week focused on topics of contemporary concern to FIUs: The Role of FIUs in Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery, New Payment Methods followed by Terrorist Financing, The Role of FIUs in Conducting National Risk Assessments, – FIU Information System Maturity Model (FISMM), Coopération internationale pour des CRF francophones and Public/Private Partnership in Practice. Some of these training sessions were supported by the World Bank, GOPAC and the Wolfsberg Group.

In the fourth year of the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) the 2014 semi-finalists, a combined submission from FIU Mexico and FinCEN, USA; and AUSTRAC Australia presented their cases to the plenary. After all votes were counted, FIU Mexico and FinCEN, USA was declared the winner of the 2014 BECA trophy. Previous BECA cases can be found in Egmont Group Annual Reports.²

Furthermore, 60 bilateral cooperation agreements were signed between Egmont members during the week. Whilst information can, in most instances, be exchanged between FIUs without recourse to Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), the cooperation agreements signal an ever-increasing willingness for Egmont members to work together across borders in the exchange of information. This will deliver very practical results in expanding and systematizing the flow of intelligence and fostering better communications among FIUs

All members of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units are grateful to the SBS UIF-Peru for so effectively and professionally delivering the 22nd Egmont Plenary Meeting in Lima, acknowledging the valuable contributions that UIF-Peru has provided to the activities of the Egmont Group. UIF-Peru, as a member of the Egmont Group, and GAFISUD provides active leadership on international AML/CFT efforts.

Lima, Peru

6 June 2014.

² <http://www.egmontgroup.org/library/annual-reports>