



Editorial

The Egmont Group has seen significant changes over the last few years with membership numbers growing to 108, the formation of the Egmont Secretariat and the formation of the Egmont Group as an international organisation.

In response to these changes, the Egmont Committee and Working Groups are now in a position to take a more strategic approach to ensure that the needs of the Egmont Group and its members are met through greater accountability, transparency, and engagement in the international arena.

The Egmont Committee is currently working on a strategic plan that will give the Egmont Group greater focus and direction for the upcoming years. The Plan, to be developed over the coming months, will be presented to the Heads of FIUs at the Egmont Group 2009 Plenary meeting.

The recent working group meeting was held in Toronto, Canada and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne Flemming and her dedicated staff from FINTRAC-CANAFE, together with the Egmont Secretariat for their exceptional efforts in making the meeting a success.

Neil J Jensen

Chair, Egmont Committee

Chair, Training Working Group

EGMONT COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Workshop

The Egmont Committee participated in a workshop during the week of the Toronto Working Group meetings to consider a strategic plan for the work of the Egmont Group over the next three to five years.

During the workshop the Committee confirmed the objectives established in the Egmont Group Charter and commenced a detailed consideration of the underpinning components and actions required to meet each of the objectives. The focus was on ensuring that the Egmont Group identifies and meets the needs of its members and other key stakeholders whilst ensuring the credibility of the Egmont Group through accountability and transparency.

Joint Egmont/World Bank FIU Governance Project

During the Toronto meeting, World Bank representatives provided a presentation on the draft final report of the joint Egmont/World Bank 'Types of FIU Governance' Project. The World Bank representatives will provide additional information on matters raised by the Egmont Committee members concerning the section dealing with access to FIU data holding and will provide a presentation of the report to Heads of FIUs during the 2009 plenary meeting.

International Cooperation

The Committee discussed international relationships and ways to enhance the cooperation between the Egmont Group and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs). It was agreed that the Egmont Group would work towards identifying areas of mutual interest to ensure greater transparency in the relationship with the FATF and other FSRBs.

The procedure for granting observer status to International Organizations will be considered by the Committee during the working group meeting in March 2009 as well as a Terms of Reference for Egmont Group Representation in other international meetings. This follows approaches from the Wolfsberg Group and the Basel Institute on Governance seeking observer status in the Egmont Group.

Egmont Public Website

The Committee approved funding to allow for the review and redevelopment of the Egmont public website to ensure that it is a reliable and effective tool for communication.

The project will be established by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Chair of the IT Working Group (ITWG) and with the support and advice of FINTRAC and the Egmont Secure Web (ESW) Administrator.

LEGAL WORKING GROUP

The Terrorism Financing (TF) Subgroup provided an update on the progress of FIUs that are not yet compliant with the terrorism financing mandate of the Egmont definition. Eleven candidates overall remain non-compliant with some FIUs closer to compliance than others. Three of these FIUs reported that their respective TF laws should come into force within the next few months.

The TF Subgroup agreed to continue monitoring the situation of the remaining non-compliant FIUs.

The Chair also proposed that the Legal Working Group (LWG) serve as a venue to discuss information exchange practices that have impeded the free flow of information between FIUs.

The LWG has agreed to develop an online library which will contain collections of court decisions and rulings relating to issues of interest to the work of FIUs as well as money laundering and terrorism financing offences.

The Egmont Group Annual Report



The first public Egmont Group Annual Report 2007-2008 was posted on the Egmont public website in October 2008.

TRAINING WORKING GROUP

Tactical Analysis Training Package

The Training Working Group (TWG) will conduct a trial workshop of the newly developed Tactical Analysis Training Package in Stockholm, Sweden in December this year.

This regional workshop will be attended by participants from the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and The Netherlands.

The Egmont Group is grateful to the Swedish FIU who is coordinating the event and providing training facilities within the Swedish Police Headquarters. The TWG will use this valuable opportunity to assess the timing and relevance of the training and feedback which will be incorporated into the training package to ensure a quality and valuable product.

Plenary training sessions

In preparation for the 2009 Plenary meeting, the TWG is developing a program of training sessions that will be delivered during the Plenary meeting.

Training sessions focusing on operational issues will be conducted in parallel to the Heads of FIU (HoFIU) meeting. Additional sessions will also be conducted during the Plenary session focusing on broader issues that will be more relevant to the HoFIU.

The Plenary training sessions are seen as an opportunity for international organisations to share information with Egmont member FIUs.

Mutual Evaluation Training Package

The TWG is continuing to develop the Mutual Evaluation Training Package. This training package will provide information on how different FIUs are able to meet the FATF recommendations and examples of evidence that can be presented to demonstrate compliance.

The training material will be used to train future Mutual Evaluators of FIUs and will also help FIUs who are preparing for an evaluation.

The package will be submitted to the HoFIUs for approval at the next Plenary meeting in May 2009.

OPERATIONAL WORKING GROUP

On-going Projects

During the Operational Working Group (OpWG) meeting in Toronto, the Chair reported on the Asset Recovery Predictive Intelligence System (ARPIS) being developed by the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR). ARPIS is an information platform designed to provide information on individuals and entities involved in corruption related cases to FIUs. The Chair together with representatives from Israel, Switzerland and South Africa had the opportunity to test the system and give their respective comments. They highlighted the value of ARPIS as a sophisticated data mining tool for FIUs in investigating corruption related cases.

New Initiatives

A new sub-group on Child Pornography was created and will be led by FinCEN. The sub-group was the OpWG's response to a request from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) President to support or develop initiatives to combat child pornography. The sub-group will develop a paper or revise existing OpWG papers to address the role of the FIU in combating child pornography.

OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

The IMF and the Egmont Group, represented by the Chairs of the Outreach Working Group (OWG) and Legal Working Group (LWG), undertook a joint mission to the Kyrgyz Republic in July 2008 to discuss assistance with FIU operational issues with countries from Central Asia. Egmont Group membership requirements were also discussed with non Egmont members, including Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, who participated in the meeting.

The Chair of the Egmont Committee, together with the Chair of the OWG and the Egmont Executive Secretary, recently attended meetings with ESAAMLG and GIABA during the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary held in Rio de Janeiro in October 2008. The African FATF Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) provided documentation which contained a review of FIU candidates from their member countries. The OWG emphasized the need for coordination of FIU initiatives in the African region.

Egmont membership application information

The OWG will soon publish a 'Membership Application Package' (MAP) on the Egmont Group public website. This package will describe the steps, processes and timelines that a prospective new member needs to follow before its candidacy is presented to the HoFIUs for consideration.

In addition, draft templates of letters have been developed both to standardize the application process and to assist the prospective member when initiating a membership application.

The Egmont Secretariat continues to function as the initial contact point for liaison between the prospective member FIU, relevant Egmont representatives and the prospective sponsor(s). The process will then be led by the sponsor FIUs, as soon as the sponsors agree to support the FIU's candidacy.

IT WORKING GROUP

goAML Evaluation

During the IT meeting in Toronto, representatives from AUSTRAC and FINTRAC presented an evaluation report on the UNODC's goAML product. They reported on both the technical aspects of goAML as well as the level of functionality.

The UNODC reported that they were pleased with the findings of the evaluation and valued the recommendations.

Installations of goAML are now well underway in both Kosovo and Namibia, with both FIUs expected to go live at the beginning of November.

For anyone interested in learning more about goAML, go to the UNODC website at <http://goaml.unodc.org/>

ESW updates

The ITWG will be testing and using the new ESW collaboration tools in a testing environment over the next few months. This tool will be fully rolled out between March and May 2009.

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