



*STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units
Guernsey, 23rd June 2004*

Recognising the international nature of money laundering;

Realising that in order to counter money laundering an increasing number of governments around the world have both imposed disclosure obligations on financial institutions and designated financial intelligence units, or "FIUs," to receive, analyse, and disseminate to competent authorities such disclosures of financial information;

Identifying terrorism financing as a distinct and growing problem that like money laundering crosses national borders and operates within the international financial system;

Finding that FIUs acting in their capacity to receive, analyse and disseminate sensitive financial disclosures increasingly have become valuable tools in the global fight against terrorism financing by supporting the work of traditional national government agencies;

Convinced that co-operation between and among FIUs across national borders both increases the effectiveness of individual FIUs and contributes to the success of the global fight against money laundering and terrorism financing;

Mindful of both the sensitive nature of disclosures of financial information and the value of the FIUs established to protect their confidentiality, analyse them, and refer them, as appropriate, to the competent authorities for investigation, prosecution, or trial;

Understanding that effective international co-operation between and among FIUs must be based on a foundation of mutual trust;

Acknowledging the important role of international organisations and the various traditional national government agencies – such as Finance and Justice ministries, the police, and financial institution supervisory agencies – as allies in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing;

Having periodically convened plenary gatherings – known as Egmont Group Meetings¹ – to discuss issues common to FIUs and to foster such international co-operation among established FIUs, to assist and advise FIUs under development, and to co-operate with representatives of other government agencies and international organisations interested in the international fight against money laundering and terrorism financing;

¹ Named after the Egmont-Arenberg palace in Brussels where the first such meeting was held on 9 June 1995.

Having also agreed upon a definition of "Financial Intelligence Unit," completed a survey on the possibilities and modalities of information exchange, prepared a model Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of information, created a secure Internet Web-site to facilitate information exchanges, and embarked upon several specific initiatives to develop the expertise and skills of the FIUs' staffs and to contribute to the successful investigation of matters within the FIUs' jurisdiction;

Aware that obstacles continue to limit information exchange and effective co-operation between some FIUs, and that those obstacles may include legal restrictions and/or the very nature of the FIUs themselves (- as administrative, judicial, or police); and

Convinced that there exists both significant potential for broad-based international co-operation among the FIUs and a critical need to enhance such co-operation,

The FIUs participating in the Egmont Group hereby affirm their commitment to encourage the development of FIUs and co-operation among and between them in the interest of combating money laundering and in assisting with the global fight against terrorism financing.

To that end, we affirm our accession to the definition of a Financial Intelligence Unit adopted at the plenary meeting of the Egmont Group in Rome in November 1996, as amended at the Egmont Plenary Meeting in Guernsey in June 2004:

"A central, national agency responsible for receiving, (and as permitted, requesting), analysing and disseminating to the competent authorities, disclosures of financial information:

- (i) concerning suspected proceeds of crime and potential financing of terrorism, or
- (ii) required by national legislation or regulation,

in order to combat money laundering and terrorism financing".

We also adopt the findings of the legal working group concerning the identification of those agencies that meet the FIU definition at the present time.

Henceforth, we agree that Egmont Group plenary meetings shall be convened by and for FIUs and other invited persons or agencies who are in a position to contribute to the goals of the Egmont Group. Egmont Group Participants shall include FIUs and other agencies representing governments that do not presently have FIUs. All other invited persons, agencies or international organisations shall be considered "Observers."

We believe it is crucial to develop a network of information exchange on the basis of the *"Principles of Information Exchange Between Financial Intelligence Units"* as set forth in the Annex and incorporated herein by this reference.

We recognise the right of every FIU to subject co-operation to additional conditions as required by its national legislation.

We further agree to pursue as a priority, through the appropriate working groups and otherwise:

Determination of appropriate consequences that attend to an Egmont Group Participant's status with respect to the definition of FIU adopted in Rome;

Development of FIUs in governments around the world;

Further stimulation of information exchange on the basis of reciprocity or mutual agreement;

Access to the Egmont Secure Web-site for all FIUs;

Continued development of training opportunities, regional/operational workshops, and personnel exchanges;

Consideration of a formal structure to maintain continuity in the administration of the Egmont Group, as well as consideration of a regular frequency and location for plenary meetings;

Articulation of more formal procedures by which decisions as to particular agencies' status vis-à-vis the FIU definition are to be taken;

Designation of additional working groups, as necessary;

Development of appropriate modalities for the exchange of information;

Creation of Egmont Group sanctioned materials for use in presentations and communication to public audiences and the press about Egmont Group matters.

As originally approved in Madrid on 24 June 1997, amended at The Hague on 13 June 2001, in Sydney on 23 July 2003 and in Guernsey on 23 June 2004.