



Principles for Information Exchange
Between Financial Intelligence Units for Money
Laundering and Terrorism Financing Cases
The Hague, 13 June 2001

A. Introduction

1. The Egmont Group works to foster the development of Financial Intelligence Units ("FIUs")¹ and information exchange.
2. The Egmont Group agreed in its Statement of Purpose, adopted in Madrid on 24 June 1997, to pursue among its priorities the stimulation of information exchange and to overcome the obstacles preventing cross-border information sharing.
3. Information-sharing arrangements should have the aim of fostering the widest possible co-operation between FIUs.
4. The following principles for information exchange among FIUs are meant to outline generally-shared concepts, while allowing countries necessary flexibility.

B. General Framework

5. International co-operation between FIUs should be encouraged and based upon a foundation of mutual trust.
6. FIUs should take steps to seek information that may be used by other, identified, domestic law enforcement or financial supervisory agencies engaged in enforcement and related regulatory activities.
7. FIUs should work to encourage that national legal standards and privacy laws are not conceived so as to inhibit the exchange of information, in accordance with these principles, between or among FIUs.
8. Information-sharing arrangements must recognize and allow room for case-by-case solutions to specific problems.

C. Conditions for the Exchange of Information

9. FIUs should be able to exchange information freely with other FIUs on the basis of reciprocity or mutual agreement and consistent with procedures understood by the requested and requesting party. Such exchange, either upon request or spontaneously,

1. See definition in the Egmont Group "Statement of Purpose".

Annex To The Egmont Group "Statement Of Purpose"

should produce any available information that may be relevant to an analysis or investigation of financial transactions and other relevant information and the persons or companies involved.

10. An FIU requesting information should disclose, to the FIU that will process the request, at a minimum the reason for the request, the purpose for which the information will be used and enough information to enable the receiving FIU to determine whether the request complies with its domestic law.

D. Permitted Uses of Information

11. Information exchanged between FIUs may be used only for the specific purpose for which the information was sought or provided.
12. The requesting FIU may not transfer information shared by a disclosing FIU to a third party, nor make use of the information in an administrative, investigative, prosecutorial, or judicial purpose without the prior consent of the FIU that disclosed the information.

E. Confidentiality – Protection of Privacy

13. All information exchanged by FIUs must be subjected to strict controls and safeguards to ensure that the information is used only in an authorized manner, consistent with national provisions on privacy and data protection. At a minimum, exchanged information must be treated as protected by the same confidentiality provisions as apply to similar information from domestic sources obtained by the receiving FIU.