



Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units

G20 Virtual Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting 22 October 2020

EGMONT GROUP TALKING POINTS

Dear audience,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting.

As the Chair of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, I feel privileged to be among the speakers for today's meeting. This meeting addresses a topic that has become more and more important over the last years. The general knowledge of corruption's severe costs and possible societal disruption has become more evident to the world's relevant parties.

FIUs are uniquely positioned to act as intermediaries between the private and the public sectors. They are the only organization in each jurisdiction to receive suspicious/unusual financial transaction reports related to money laundering, their predicate criminal activities (including corruption) and terrorism financing.

The establishment of one single Financial Intelligence Unit in every jurisdiction is based upon the Financial Action Task Force's Recommendations. Having one FIU in each jurisdiction, combined with the secure infrastructure and the Principles that Egmont Group provides for information exchange, allows for a smooth international cooperation. This translates in FIUs being able to follow the proceeds of corruption across borders, which is one of the assets our members can bring to this fight. The other one is knowledge.

Between 2018 - 2019, Egmont Group members received more than 700 million reports from the private sector. Within the same interval over 23000 information requests were sent by Egmont Group members to each other. Through the Egmont Group network and international cooperation, this information can be used to the benefit of all the Egmont Group members' analyses.

The fight against the laundering of corruption proceeds remains a priority item on the Egmont Group's agenda. The Group has produced many important papers to support the dynamic role of FIUs in the fight against corruption, such as the 2013 report on *"The Role of Financial Intelligence Units in Fighting Corruption and Asset Recovery"* and the 2019 report on *"FIU Tools and Practices for Investigating Laundering of the Proceeds of Corruption."*

FIUs' role in the fight against the laundering of corruption proceeds was a central theme during the Egmont Group's March 2018 meeting in Buenos Aires. The results of this meeting were, amongst others a set of red-flag indicators for FIUs and the private sector to detect transactions that are possibly related to the laundering of corruption proceeds. The indicators were shared

with the global community.

Since FIUs are positioned to collect and analyze sensitive financial information, we consider operational independence and autonomy of an FIU to be a fundamental condition to effectively combat corruption, money laundering, and other serious crimes. To this purpose, a *Guidance on Operational Autonomy and Independence of an FIU* has been published by the Egmont Group, to further detail the FATF requirements intended to prevent undue influence or interference on the work of the FIUs.

The Egmont Group is very aware that the fight against corruption is a fight we must undertake in close collaboration with relevant organizations in this field. As indicated in our letter to the Saudi Arabia authorities, the Egmont Group fully supports the Riyadh Initiative of creating a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities and its goals of fighting corruption by consolidating international efforts.

In this regard, the Egmont Group proposed several important elements to support the various components of this Initiative, including:

- Providing subject matter expertise;
- Promoting the network to EG members and encouraging them to contribute to it;
- Sharing project reports, typologies, and red-flag indicators that EG has been releasing related to the fight against corruption and combatting the laundering of corruption proceeds with the network.

Only through more efficient and effective cooperation will we, jointly, be able to fight our systems' abuse better. This concept is entirely aligned with our Strategic Plan, which was accepted and endorsed by our members. One of the Strategic Plan's main objectives is reaching out and working with other international partners and stakeholders to give effect to the resolutions and statements of the United Nations Security Council, the G20 Finance Ministers, G7 Finance Ministers, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

I hope we can all have an open mind to explore ways and means to further our work collaboratively in the fight against corruption.

Egmont Group is grateful for the opportunity to participate in such an important event and would like to thank Saudi Arabia for the invitation.

I wish you all a very fruitful meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.