

## CHAIRPERSON'S COLUMN



Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 pandemic continues to modify all spheres of our life. Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism is also changing its approaches in accordance with the new situation, while not forgetting its main purpose - implementation of tasks set before EAG. First of all, EAG is aimed at strengthening national anti-money laundering systems.

Interaction of states is a continuous process, and hence the global AML/CFT system has worked hard throughout this year to maintain it amid the pandemic. We were guided by the decision of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenum, where international experts decided to use a flexible approach in the new circumstances, providing for the possibility to arrange assessment procedures partially in virtual format.

EAG has also worked out its "antiviral" measures:

1. Coordination of technical assistance and exchange of experience in a remote format, which was discussed during the November Plenary Week of the Group.
2. The new strategy of regional risk assessment providing for active participation of each country not only in identifying its own risks (from national security point of view) but also in developing response measures to understanding these risks (from EAG member's point of view). Combining joint efforts will enable us to build a holistic picture of risks faced by the Eurasian region and take comprehensive measures to minimize cross-border threats.
3. And, of course, our joint work with ML/TF risks, with which the pandemic has "infected" the global financial system.

The year 2020 has been a challenging but teachable year for all of us. A rapidly changing environment has the potential not only to change our view of life, but help us draw conclusions and gain useful experience.

May the next year bring health and joy to all of us!

**Yury Chikhanchin**  
EAG Chairman

## October FATF Plenary Meeting Took Place

*The delegation of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) took part in the FATF Plenary held on October 6-23 this year via videoconferencing. It was the first Plenary of the two-year German Presidency chaired by the FATF President Markus Pleyer*



FATF Plenary meeting, October 2020

During the event the participants adopted the updated report on the channels and sources of funding ISIL, Al Qaeda and affiliated international terrorist organizations, as well as supported the decision to resume in the pandemic situation the 4th round of assessing the effectiveness of national AML/CFT systems and the FATF follow-up procedures in a hybrid format. Under the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was decided to use a flexible approach which provides the opportunity to arrange on-site missions with virtual participation of some experts.

In the context of implementing one of the priorities of the German Presidency concerning digitalization of the FATF Global Network operations, the participants decided to launch two typology projects. The research named "Data Sharing, Analysis and Protection" is aimed at studying the use of modern technologies for analysis and protection of confidential information in the course of information exchange between financial institutions, including in the framework of international financial groups. The project named "Opportunities and Problems of using Modern Technologies in the AML/CFT Sphere" focuses on studying the potential influence of new technologies on the fulfillment of AML/CFT requirements by the private sector and supervisory authorities.

The participants were presented with the interim findings of the study on ML typologies related to environmental crimes, identification of the link between the financing of terrorism and illicit arms trafficking, as well as analysis of specific characteristics of racially and ethnically motivated terrorism financing.

One of the significant outcomes of the Plenary was removing Iceland and Mongolia from the FATF 'grey' list. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, persistent efforts made by the FATF Secretariat and concerned member states ensured the conduct of monitoring missions to Reykjavik and Ulaanbaatar in order to verify on site the implementation of the Action Plans developed jointly with FATF and aimed at addressing the strategic deficiencies of national AML/CFT systems. Staff member of the EAG Secretariat D. Kudryashova was included in the group of experts dispatched to Mongolia and headed the mission.

The participants supported the joint initiative of the EAG, APG and MONEYVAL Secretariats to establish a unified approach to developing practical methods of the FATF Assessment Methodology application across the Global Network. The practical mechanism of this initiative implementation will be reviewed in February 2021.

33<sup>rd</sup> EAG Plenary Meeting  
Took Place

p. 2

EAG Scientific and  
Educational Capacity  
Provides for the Financial  
Security of the Region

p. 3

Professional Development  
of AML/CFT Teaching Staff  
in the EAG Region

p. 4

Russia Chaired the  
MONEYVAL Plenary Session

p. 6

Issues Concerning  
Adaptation of Oversight  
Mechanisms and Compliance  
Systems to the Global  
Pandemic Situation

p. 7

To the Management and  
Staff of the International  
Training and Methodological  
Centre for Financial  
Monitoring (ITMCFM)

p. 8

EAG Secretariat Staff  
Participated in the Annual  
Typology Meeting of the FATF  
AML/CFT Experts (JEM)

p. 8

The Ad Hoc Group on the Strategic Review (AGSR) agreed on modalities for the next round of evaluation activities and approved the reduction of the upcoming cycle to 6 years with no five-year follow-up reports.

Taking into consideration the delay in submitting follow-up reports requested by the countries blacklisted by the FATF in connection with the pandemic, the FATF's public statement regarding Iran and the DPRK remains unchanged.

The next FATF virtual Plenary is scheduled for February 2021.



## 33<sup>rd</sup> EAG Plenary Meeting Took Place

*The 33<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) chaired by Director of Rosfinmonitoring Yuri Chikhanchin and the EAG Working Group meetings were held in the virtual format on November 9-12 and November 19-20, 2020, respectively. The event was attended by the representatives of the EAG member states and the FATF Secretariat as well as by the EAG observer countries and organizations*



### During the meeting of the Working Group on Technical Assistance (WGTA), the issue concerning implementation of the risk-based supervisory approach in the EAG region was discussed

In his welcome speech, the Chairman of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) reminded that despite the imposition of restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAG member states continue to cooperate with the aim of further strengthening the national AML/CFT systems. Considerable attention is paid to identification, analysis and mitigation of ML/TF risks in the Eurasian region, which is becoming particularly relevant in view of the trends that are emerging during the pandemic. Additional technical assistance is provided to the EAG member states to this end.

The EAG member states presented the information about the outcomes of implementation of measures aimed at mitigating the ML/TF risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plenary highlighted the need to respond promptly to new ML/TF threats arising due to the global epidemiological situation. It was noted that the EAG member states carry out a significant work in order to identify and analyze new ML/TF methods in the region, raise awareness among the governmental authorities and private sector of the latest global trends and emerging risks and also take active steps to enhance international cooperation for the purpose of strengthening the national AML/CFT systems.

The countries confirmed their intention to expand interaction with the private sector and approved the core principles of the International Compliance Council's work.

In the course of the meeting of the Working Group on Typologies and Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Crime (WGTFP), the report on the interim results of the regional ML/TF risk assessment presented by the project team under the leadership of Rosfinmonitoring representative was heard.

At the Plenary meeting it was decided to conduct two new projects within the framework of the Working Group on Typologies and Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Crime (WGTFP) entitled "EAG Guidelines for Conducting AML/CFT Financial Investigations" and "Optimization and Updating of EAG Typology Studies".

The draft "EAG Guidelines for Conducting AML/CFT Financial Investigations" is aimed at providing recommendations to the EAG member states on the types of and mechanisms for conducting financial investigations, taking into account specificities of the legal systems of the countries of the Eurasian region and certain forms of crimes.

Optimization and updating of EAG typology studies are aimed at increasing their relevance, ensuring a more effective use of research findings by the target audience and will contribute to a more optimal choice of topics for future EAG typology projects.

During the meeting of the Working Group on Technical Assistance (WGTA), the issue concerning implementation of the risk-based supervisory approach in the EAG region was discussed.

Besides that, the Plenary considered the amendments to EAG statutory and governing documents as well as to the Procedures for conducting the EAG Second Round of Mutual Evaluations.

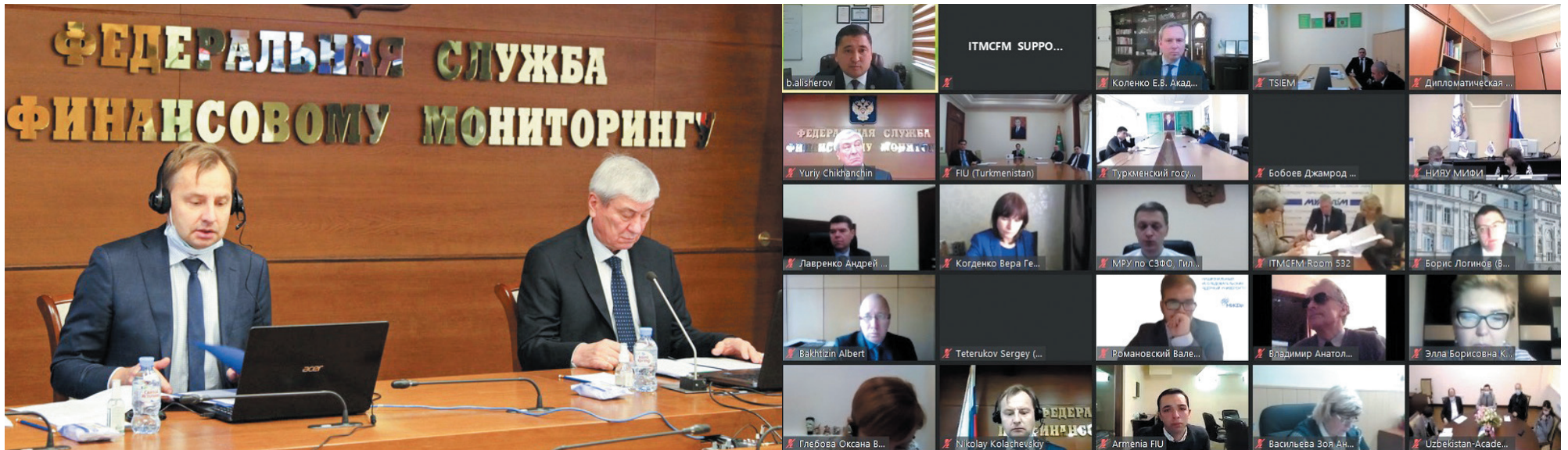
Special gratitude was expressed to the International Training and Methodology Center for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) for excellent organization of the 33rd EAG Plenary Meeting and the EAG Working Group meetings via video conferencing.

The 34th EAG Plenary Meeting will be held in May 2021 in the Republic of Tajikistan subject to the favorable epidemiological situation in the world.



# EAG Scientific and Educational Capacity Provides for the Financial Security of the Region

*The VI Annual Scientific and Practical Conference of the International Network AML/CFT Institute (INI) named "AML/CFT System as a Safeguard of Global and National Security: Synthesis of Law, Economics and IT" started its work on November 25, 2020*



The online forum brought together more than five hundred participants from all member states of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), representing universities and scientific organizations, financial intelligence units, law enforcement and supervisory authorities, as well as the private sector.

Opening the forum, the conference moderator, Director of Lebedev Physical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, corresponding member of RAS, N. Kolachevsky read out a welcome speech to the participants on behalf of A. Seryshev, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation.

## A. Seryshev:

*"Traditionally high level of participants and guests of the conference undoubtedly demonstrates the significance of this event, and its remote format contributes to the expansion of the circle of persons interested in the discussion of current problems and possible ways to solve them.*

*In today's difficult times of large-scale economic crisis, caused by the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, all states are united in one task - to overcome challenges with dignity and to maintain economic stability. That's why it is highly relevant to consider in the conference theoretical and practical issues of global and national economic and information security in the context of expertise and achievements in various areas of science and practice, including economics, IT and law.*

*That is how, based on law enforcement monitoring, in-depth analysis of economic processes, using innovative scientific and technological potential, we must organize the work aimed at identifying and assessing new risks of illegal financial transactions, prevention of illegal transfer of the capital abroad and to shadow economy.*

*In this respect, implementation of scientific and educational projects and the arrangement of similar educational events at the International Network AML/CFT Institute are very much in demand. Further development of the effective system to combat money laundering and terrorism financing depends largely on the results of these activities."*

The morning session of the conference began with a speech made by Yu. Chikhanchin, Director of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service, EAG Chairman, and Chairman of INI's Council. The Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Russia highlighted topical issues related to threats and risks of money laundering and financing of terrorism in the modern world, and measures to counter them with the use of the scientific and educational capacity of Eurasian states.

## Yu. Chikhanchin:

*"The increasing volume of international money transfer transactions and emergence of new payment tools create a large array of data... Cryptocurrencies provide an opportunity for conclusion of deals, including those of criminal nature, to bypass the existing and newly created regulation standards. It is important to note that even for regulated transactions, rules of the relevant cryptocurrency exchanges do not always coincide with the legislation of EAG states.*

*Bringing legislation to a unified standard not only in the Russian Federation, but also in Russia's anti-money laundering partner states is a large-scale and time-consuming task.*

*Automation of analytics and investigation process requires creation of reliable models, which describe economic, social, legal, international, information and other contexts of phenomena related to the considered problem. Creation of such models will be possible only with close interaction of science and practice. I would like to express my confidence that this conference will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening of such interaction."*

Welcoming speeches to the participants of the conference were delivered by: Director of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law, Deputy President of the Russian Academy of Sciences T. Khabrieva, Deputy Director of the People's Bank of China Mr. Bao Mingyu, Deputy Director of the FIU of India Mr. Arjun Pradhan, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation M. Kotiukov, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Financial Markets of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation I. Divinsky, Deputy Head of the Federal

Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation M. Bryukhanov, EAG Executive Secretary S. Teterukov.

## S. Teterukov:

*"EAG seeks to contribute to the reduction of threats posed by international terrorism, strengthening of the security of member states' financial systems, as well as to their further integration into the FATF Global Network. Along with the tasks related to provision of assistance in implementation by EAG member states of the FATF Standards, carrying out mutual evaluations, analysis of AML/CFT typologies and exchange of experience in countering such crimes, another priority area of EAG's activities continues to be coordination of international cooperation programs and technical assistance. In particular, the most serious attention is paid to coordination of training activities, development of training materials, and basic AML/CFT training. We believe that since its establishment, the International Network AML/CFT Institute has won a reputation of a unique platform of inter-university partnership, allowing scientific and educational institutions of EAG member states to improve their work on personnel development in the interests of national anti-money laundering systems."*

During the plenary discussion, the main topic of the conference was discussed by Rector of the National Research Nuclear University "MEPhI" M. Strikhanov, Rector of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia O. Yastrebov, Head of the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan E. Kolenko, Director of the Training and Methodology Centre of the State Financial Intelligence Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic B. Alisherov, Director of the Central Economics and Mathematics Institute of RAS A. Bakhtizin, Director of the National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of RAS F. Voitlovsky, Director of Lebedev Physical Institute N. Kolachevsky.

After that, the Forum continued in sectional mode. Meetings of 9 thematic sections in the format of discussions, debates, sessions and roundtables were held during 2 days.



# Professional Development of AML/CFT Teaching Staff in the EAG Region

*Training of highly professional staff capable of promptly responding to new emerging threats and challenges is one of the major goals of the AML/CFT system*



12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of the International Network AML/CFT Institute In Ashgabat, November 2019



**Ella Kalinina**

*Project Manager,  
ITMCFM  
Education  
Department*

At present, training of such staff is conducted by the International Network AML/CFT Institute (INI) which unites the universities and research centers from 8 EAG countries: Belarus, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

A wide range of AML/CFT issues featured by the inherent specificities requires special knowledge, skills and expertise. The dynamic evolution of the AML/CFT system, changes in the legislation and emergence of new risks and threats require continuous improvement of knowledge of the teachers involved in training of staff for the AML/CFT system. In order to teach others, one needs to learn more himself. In fact, what competences a student will acquire in the process of training and be able to use at the beginning of work activities as well as whether these competencies meet the employer's requirements and contribute to the further development of a junior expert, depend on teachers.

Since 2009, the International Training and Methodology Center for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) has been implementing the training courses for the AML/CFT teaching staff of the Eurasian region countries with a view to building the AML/CFT pedagogical and expert capacity, staffing the educational institutions with highly-qualified teachers capable of delivering high-level professional training, and developing and improving educational programs and training events for officers of financial intelligence units, supervisory authorities, law enforcement agencies and personnel of AML/CFT reporting entities that are subject to primary financial monitoring.

## **The goal of the training courses is to:**

- Ensure that teachers respond adequately to the changes in AML/CFT sphere and promptly adapt educational and training programs to such changes;
- Keep the expertise of the universities' teaching staff up-to-date;
- Develop professional competencies of AML/CFT teachers;
- Study the applied aspects of AML/CFT, practical activities and professional specificities;

Since 2018, the ITMCFM has been delivering the training courses for the teaching staff of the INI's member universities under the additional vocational training program "AML/CFT Staff Professional Development".

It is important to note that the AML/CFT practitioners, i.e. the current FIU officers, are engaged in conducting training sessions for teachers.

They not only share their knowledge and skills with teachers, but also know what specialists are needed for the AML/CFT system at present and for the future. Their knowledge and experience are unique and cannot be generated from books and open sources. The training courses for AML/CFT teaching staff provide the opportunity for the FIU officers to share their knowledge and enable the teachers to acquire this knowledge from the original source and transfer it to a young generation.

But the choice of guest speakers is not limited to the FIU officers. People who possess the required experience and are able to present training materials in a clear and intelligible way, i.e. representatives of the government authorities, ministries and agencies, supervisory authorities, private sector and research and educational institutions, are also invited to take part in the training sessions in the capacity of instructors or trainers. These include both skilled practitioners with rich AML/CFT work experience and young people full of fresh knowledge and promising ideas.

**Professional development program** for teaching staff of the INI's member universities includes three stages, namely:

- Basic training;
- Advanced training;
- Specialized training.



***The Young Professionals Forum is aimed at establishing interaction among students of INI's member universities, teachers who train experts for the anti-money laundering system, and representatives of those organizations that will accept university graduates into their ranks.***

The basic training is aimed at development of such competences as:

- knowledge of international AML/CFT legal and institutional framework; international AML/CFT standards; ML/TF typologies and specificities of AML/CFT supervision; understanding of correlation between the educational and professional standards and professional and public accreditation of educational and training programs;
- ability to apply the acquired knowledge in the course of pedagogical work and in the process of development of specialized AML/CFT training programs.

**The second stage program** involves the intensive advanced training course which builds on the basic training. The advanced training is focused on deepening the knowledge acquired in the course of the basic training and transforming this knowledge and understanding into practical steps aimed at the practice-oriented education and implementation of applied training process.

**At the advanced training courses**, enhanced attention is paid to studying the methodologies, examining the findings and outcomes of the national risk assessment and familiarizing with the process of undergoing the FATF and EAG mutual evaluations.

In October 2020, specialized training courses were held. The core direction of this stage is supervisory activities: risk-based approach in organizations' activity - subjects of financial monitoring; risk-based supervision.

This course was unique and especially challenging. It is the first time that representatives of several EAG countries have gathered on one platform in the framework of advanced training courses for teachers. This course was attended by

approximately 170 people! This became possible due to the fact that the course events were held in a virtual mode. The experience that was gained in the process of preparation for this course, as well as a great opportunity for so many representatives of the pedagogical association to communicate and exchange their knowledge will certainly be useful in the future for both the participants and the organizers of the course.

Of course, we would like to diversify the program, make it more useful, varied and memorable. We decided to include practice-oriented events of a new format in the professional development program for teachers. Thus, practical workshops on international cooperation and round tables dedicated to the issues concerning training of AML/CFT experts in the Eurasian region were organized not only in the ITMCFM, but also in embassies and INI's member universities. Along with teachers, representatives of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic and of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan located in the Russian Federation, as well as representatives of the EAG Secretariat and Rosfinmonitoring took part in the events, which increases the prestige of such events and contributes to popularizing AML/CFT education as well as to solving issues concerning internship and employment of INI's students.

Students were also involved in the new event format. Students of those countries for whose FIU representatives and teachers the course was organized presented their projects. This format has attracted a lot of interest, since it helped to establish direct interaction between EAG students studying at Russian universities and representatives of FIUs with the aim of further cooperation and possible employment. The INI's teachers were able to share their experience in the area of AML/CFT personnel training and receive support from the embassy representatives.

During the 2020 course, which brought together representatives of many countries, it was decided

to organize and hold two forums: for young financial intelligence specialists and for teachers of the International Network AML/CFT Institute.

The Young Professionals Forum is aimed at establishing interaction among students of INI's member universities, teachers who train experts for the anti-money laundering system, and representatives of those organizations that will accept university graduates into their ranks.

At the end of the training, the INI Teachers Forum was held, which was attended by teachers - participants of professional development courses and teachers of INI's Russian member universities.

The goal of the Forum is to exchange experience on organizing the training process at INI's member universities amid the pandemic, introducing elements of artificial intelligence into the teaching and knowledge assessment process, and strengthening the mentoring and educational functions of INI's teaching staff.

With a view to assessing the effectiveness of training events, the trainees undergo testing in the electronic format. Those trainees, who have successfully passed the final test, receive the Training Completion Certificate.

We express our gratitude to Rosfinmonitoring experts, practicing trainers from the public and private sectors and teaching staff of research and educational institutions for their contribution to the development of the system of education and training of highly professional and reliable AML/CFT staff.

Feedback received from the participants of the training course showed that the course was effective and useful for practical application, contributed to the acquisition of new knowledge and promoted its use during the organization of the educational process by teachers in INI's universities.



Conference of the International Network AML/CFT Institute, Moscow, November 2019



## Russia Chaired the MONEYVAL Plenary Session

*On September 14-18, 2020, Strasbourg hosted a hybrid Plenary session of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL). It was the first session of its kind in the history of the Council of Europe*



The event format was chosen taking into account the need to adopt the reports on the effectiveness of national AML/CFT regimes of Georgia and Slovakia. The review of these reports was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under existing procedures, this could not be done without the physical presence of at least some of the representatives of these countries, assessors, and MONEYVAL leadership, with the remaining delegations to participate via videoconferencing.

Due to the fact that Committee Chairperson Elzbieta Frankow-Jaskiewicz was ill, at least one of her two deputies had to be in attendance in order for this hybrid session to go ahead. Since Richard Walker from Guernsey declined to attend, the Second Vice President A. Petrenko (Russian Federation) was dispatched to Strasbourg and chaired all meetings.

Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić attended the official opening of the session on

September 16. She delivered a welcome speech and then publicly shared her impressions at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held on the same day. All attending ambassadors accredited in Strasbourg spoke in favor of the hybrid Plenary session chaired by Russia. Strengthening the fight against financial crimes amid the coronavirus pandemic has been one of the priorities outlined by the Council of Europe. The determination to accomplish this task was reinforced on the last day of the MONEYVAL session by the simultaneous approval of the Russian and Polish typology projects dealing with the subjects concerning more stringent regulation of the banking and non-financial sectors during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as misuse of virtual assets in the laundering of drug proceeds.

Despite the unusual format of the Plenary session, it featured an in-depth and objective review of the reports prepared by Georgia and Slovakia, which managed to avoid being added to the pool of the countries marked for inclusion in the FATF 'grey' list (both countries have been placed on an enhanced monitoring list only within MONEYVAL framework).

The experience of this Council of Europe Committee during this unprecedented period got positive feedback from FATF and its regional groups. It is now up to the global AML/CFT community to decide whether MONEYVAL hybrid practices will be used as part of the activities undertaken in the FATF Global Network. The next Committee plenary session is scheduled for April 2021.





# Issues Concerning Adaptation of Oversight Mechanisms and Compliance Systems to the Global Pandemic Situation

*The 6th International Forum on the Functioning of the AML/CFT System in the Challenging Epidemiological Situation and Consultations with the private sector were held from 29 to 30 September 2020*

The forum was organized by the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), the Federal Financial Monitoring Service, and the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM).

Due to the challenging epidemiological situation in the world, the event was held remotely via ZOOM and VINTEO.

The forum was attended by over 300 representatives of FIUs and supervisory authorities from the banking sector, as well as representatives of banks of the following countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Malta, Poland, Russia, North Macedonia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and representatives of the FATF and EAG Secretariats, as well as ITMCFM.

Welcoming remarks to the participants were delivered by Farhod Bilolov, EAG Deputy Chairman; Sergey Teterukov, EAG Executive Secretary; and Galina Bobrysheva, Deputy Director of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service.

Forum participants discussed issues concerning the adaptation of oversight mechanisms and compliance systems to the global pandemic situation.

Participants were also presented with the preliminary findings of the ITMCFM research dedicated to the



sharing of experiences in the area of adjusting the supervisory block and implementing preventive measures taking into account the ML/TF risks in the context of the pandemic, conducted on the basis of the EAG member states' survey findings.

Consultations with the private sector allowed the largest banks of Europe and the EAG countries to

share their experiences in identifying new risks, vulnerabilities and indicators amid restrictions, as well as in optimizing compliance procedures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

A collection of presentation materials (in Russian and English) was prepared following the events.





## To the Management and Staff of the International Training and Methodological Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM)

*Sergey Teterukov, Executive Secretary of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism*



The Secretariat of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring have long-standing partnership relations.

Since its establishment, ITMCFM has earned a reputation of a reliable participant in global AML/CFT efforts, organizing hundreds of important events in Russia and beyond, and achieving significant results in its research and educational activities.

Among other things, ITMCFM's consistent efforts to provide technical assistance to EAG countries through the transfer of knowledge and experience for the purpose of enhancing personnel capacity, developing technological infrastructure, and organizing workshops, trainings and skill-upgrading programs, helped create conditions conducive to the establishment and strengthening of national AML/CFT systems.

Another area of ITMCFM's work which is of great importance for all EAG member states is providing for operation of the International Network AML/CFT Institute as a unique framework of inter-university partnership, which allows EAG research and educational institutions to jointly train personnel for national AML/CFT systems. We view the presence

of an INI's graduate among the EAG Secretariat staff as evidence of its high standards in AML/CFT personnel training.

I particularly want to note that throughout its existence, the ITMCFM highly professional team has leveraged its accumulated experience and new developments to effectively fulfil the duties assigned to it. We are convinced that in the future ITMCFM will continue to expand its operations, host many exciting events and implement interesting projects that will help achieve practical results.

On behalf of the EAG Secretariat, let me sincerely congratulate the team of the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring on its 15th anniversary, and also thank our esteemed colleagues for their significant contribution to our common mission!

We sincerely wish the ITMCFM management and staff good health, creative energy, and successful implementation of goals.

## EAG Secretariat Staff Participated in the Annual Typology Meeting of the FATF AML/CFT Experts (JEM)

The meeting was attended by approximately 400 experts from various government agencies and the private sector from around the world, as well as from international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and Interpol.

The event is an international forum allowing its participants to discuss anti-money laundering issues in certain spheres of public activities and the fight against the financing of terrorism, receive information from various jurisdictions on positive examples in law enforcement, supervisory and regulatory bodies' practical work, as well as on measures taken in the sphere of AML/CFT by the private sector and civil society.

In his opening speech, the FATF President Markus Pleyer underlined that in these unprecedented times it is more important than ever for AML/CFT experts to be aware of the changing risk environment and enhance international cooperation.

In the framework of the introductory session, EAG Secretariat employees delivered a presentation on the emerging and current risks of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and presented to the participants the interim results of regional ML and TF risk assessment for EAG member states located in Central Asia, as well as the Russian Federation. EAG Secretariat has also shared the experience of developing the Methodology of regional risk assessment, methods of data collection and determination of the degree (rating) of regional

risks. The participants were separately informed about the dynamics of risks related to the financing of terrorism in EAG countries and the possible predictable development of the situation in this area due to the continuing impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

The meetings were attended by representatives of the private sector and civil society, whose expertise enables them to better understand the challenges they are facing and develop tools and mechanisms that will be most effective in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The event's results will be the basis for the FATF's ongoing work, which will be further discussed during Plenary Week in February 2021.

We welcome you to take part in the development of the EAG Bulletin. If you would like to place news, articles and other publications in the following issues of the Bulletin, please feel free to send an e-mail entitled "EAG Bulletin" to: [info@eurasiangroup.org](mailto:info@eurasiangroup.org)

Telephone: +7 (495) 950-31-46,  
fax: +7 (495) 950-35-32.  
More information can be found on our website:  
<http://www.eurasiangroup.org>

Publisher: Autonomous Non-Profit  
Organization ITMCFM.  
Chief editor S. Teterukov.  
Editorial board: A. Bulaeva, K. Litvinov.