

COLUMN OF THE EAG CHAIRMAN



Dear Colleagues!

The EAG celebrated its 20th anniversary in October. My congratulations to you on this anniversary!

The Eurasian Group plays an important role in mitigating the threat of international terrorism and ensuring the transparency, safety and security of Member States' financial systems, as well as their further integration into the international AML/CFT/CPF infrastructure. Over the two decades within the FATF Global Network, the EAG has gone a long way, overcome many obstacles and achieved significant results in strengthening the financial security of the countries of the region. The EAG has demonstrated itself as one of the most effective FATF-style regional groups.

National AML/CFT/CPF systems have also undergone a serious development path, demonstrating a high level of efficiency, resilience to threats and risks.

The Group has succeeded in engaging a wide range of government agencies, representatives of the expert community, academia and university professors. A number of unique interaction formats, such as the Council of Heads of Financial Intelligence Units of the CIS Member States, the International Forum of Parliamentarians, the Forum of Prosecutors, the International Network Institute and the International Compliance Council, contribute to this. This year, the fourth International Financial Security Olympiad was held and the International Financial Security Movement was launched.

The need to jointly counter global threats of terrorism, transnational crime, use of new technologies for illicit purposes, drug trafficking and corruption is the basis for further strengthening and enhancing cooperation of the EAG Member States.

The Eurasian Group enjoys well-deserved prestige and we have successfully developed a strong system of partnerships with other FSRBs. The increasing interest in our activities on the part of other States and international organizations, as evidenced by the Group's expanding Observer membership, cannot help but feel good about it. In 2024, Japan and the UAE have been granted this status.

We look forward to the full participation of these countries, as well as other development partners, in our efforts.

EAG Chairman
Yury Chikhanchin

Results of the 41st EAG Plenary meeting

The 41st Plenary Meeting and Working Group meetings of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) were held in Indore (Republic of India) on November 25-29, 2024. The meetings were attended by the representatives of all EAG Member States, the FATF Secretariat and FATF-style regional bodies (MENAFATF, ESAAMLG) as well as the following observers and invited delegations: Republic of Armenia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, United States of America, CIS ATC, CIS CH FIU, CIS Executive Committee, EADB, EEC, IMF, NDB, SCO, Republic of Azerbaijan, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The Plenary was chaired by the EAG Chairman Mr. Yury Chikhanchin (Russian Federation) and the EAG Deputy Chairman Mr. Shamsiddin Sohbnazarov (Republic of Uzbekistan).

The welcoming speeches to the Plenary on behalf of the Republic of India were given by Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Revenue, Government of India, Shri Pankaj Choudhary, Honorable Minister of State (Finance), Government of India and Mangubhai C. Patel, Honorable Governor, Madhya Pradesh.

The Plenary heard and adopted the Mutual Evaluation Report of the Republic of India conducted jointly with the FATF and APG. The report was discussed at the FATF Plenary meeting in June of this year. Based on the outcome of the evaluation, the Republic of India is placed in the FATF regular follow-up procedure and will report back to the Plenary in three years.

The Plenary also heard and approved 6th enhanced follow-up report of the Republic of Tajikistan's with re-ratings of Recommendations 8 and 38. The report will be published on the EAG website after passing the quality and consistency procedure of the FATF Global network.

The Plenary approved the amendments to the EAG Procedures for conducting the third round of mutual evaluations of the national AML/CFT/CPF systems of the EAG Member States and monitoring their progress.

The Plenary received information on the implementation of the voluntary tax compliance program of the Kyrgyz Republic and on measures taken to prevent the program from being used for criminal purposes. The delegations agreed to take into account the updated analysis. The Kyrgyz Republic will provide a report on the implementation of the program at the 42nd Plenary Meeting.



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The Plenary heard an overview of the monitoring of the operational environment in the EAG Member States in relation to emerging ML/TF risks for 2024. The analysis shows that the ML/TF threats, vulnerabilities and risks identified by Member States in 2024, in general, reflect the results of the First Round of Risk Assessment in the Eurasian region (a summary is available on the public section of the EAG website). Money laundering is

increasingly carried out using multi-level schemes, including those involving professional money launderers which use cryptocurrencies and payment details of front persons – “mules” – and continue to use cash. In the area of terrorist financing, schemes using cryptocurrency exchanges, including foreign ones, and cryptocurrency wallets, which are opened mainly in the name of front persons, are also gaining popularity. Based on the outcomes of the discussion, delegations were invited to use the results of the analysis in assessing national risks and developing measures for national AML/CFT/CPF systems. It was decided that the mechanism should be adapted to monitor the dynamics of ML/TF risks identified in the course of the supranational EAG risk assessment.

The Plenary endorsed topics for typologies projects in 2025. Project concept notes on “Current methods of use of bank payment cards by non-residents in money laundering schemes” and “Profiles of financial behavior of criminals” will be submitted for consideration by the 42nd Plenary.

The Plenary approved the final results of the project entitled “Monitoring the risks of use of virtual assets for criminal purposes”. The project assessed the development of the virtual assets industry, classified risks, predicate offences related to the use of virtual assets for ML/TF, vulnerabilities and threats of intensive development of the virtual currencies industry, analysed best practices of the EAG Member States and observers. Recommendations for representatives of competent authorities and the private sector to prevent the use of virtual assets for criminal purposes were presented.

The Plenary approved the Work Plan of the Association of Press Services of Financial Intelligence Units of the EAG Member States for 2025-2026. The document, in particular envisages engaging with the journalist community (in order to strengthen the credibility of the EAG and its Member States, popularise the topic of financial security). The interaction with the expert community to improve the efficiency of the Association members' activities and to broadcast positive experience in the functioning of national AML systems in the Eurasian region, the creation of the Association's own Internet resources

to ensure systematic work and the possibility of constant objective information to the public are also included into the document.

The Plenary approved the application of the United Arab Emirates for the EAG observer status. The Plenary noted the importance of engagement with the UAE and expressed hope for fruitful cooperation.

The Plenary heard regular update on the current results of the implementation of the Plan (Roadmap) on mitigating regional ML/TF risks in the Eurasian region, as well as on the results of the first phase of the research on the development of an information bulletin on the activities of terrorist groups in the Eurasian region, interim results of the development of a document regulating the procedure for conducting joint international financial investigations, a mechanism to improve the effectiveness of national anti-money laundering systems on the problem of asset recovery.

The Plenary heard the national experience of the Republic of India in the AML/CFT/CPF, the brief review of Uzbekistan's competent authorities' activities in preparation for the third round of EAG mutual evaluations and the Republic of Uzbekistan's best practices on strengthening scientific and educational capacity in AML/CFT. Besides, the delegations of Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan reported to the Plenary the information about the progress in AML/CFT/CPF area.

Report on the projects of the International Training and Methodological Centre for Financial Monitoring was also heard at the Plenary Meeting. The role of ITMCFM as a leading donor and provider in the implementation of TA project plans for the EAG Member States was emphasized.

The Plenary heard interventions of the observers, thanked for the experience presented and expressed the hope for further cooperation. The Plenary welcomed the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve the national AML/CFT system and decided to provide Iran with technical assistance in relation to the submission of its progress report to the FATF

International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) and to assist Iran in removing from the list of FATF high-risk jurisdictions.

The Plenary welcomed the outcomes of EAG/APG Workshop on innovation in the financial sector and EAG Workshop on the risk assessment of legal persons and arrangements, that took place during the 41th Plenary Week.

The annual Contest for the best cooperation between the competent authorities in the field of AML/CFT was held as part of the Plenary Meeting. The 11th Contest's winner was Russian Federation, and its laureates were Republic of Belarus and People's Republic of China.

An Awarding ceremony of the winners of the competition among compliance officers of financial institutions of EAG Member States for the best financial analysis in the field of AML/CFT took place during the Plenary Meeting. The crypto exchange “ATAIX Eurasia Ltd” (Republic of Kazakhstan) was declared as the winner of the Contest, JSCB “Rysgal” (Turkmenistan) and “International Bank of Tajikistan” (Republic of Tajikistan) were its laureates. PJSC “Rosbank” (Russian Federation) received the winner of the audience sympathy prize.

The Plenary was briefed on the implementation of the International Financial Security Movement initiative, the outcomes of the 4th International Financial Security Olympiad, which took place from May to October 2024 at the initiative of the Russian Federation, which had provided the organisation and coordination of the participants of the Olympiad, and its financing, and the International Financial Security Forum “Sirius-2024”. The Plenum expressed its support for further development of the International Financial Security movement.

The Plenary expressed gratitude to the Republic of India for hosting the 41st EAG Plenary Meeting and working group meetings, as well as for the high level of organization.

The 42nd EAG Plenary Meeting will be held in the Russian Federation from 26 to 30 May 2025.

Congratulations of the EAG Chairman Mr. Yuri Chikhanchin on the 20th anniversary of the Group



Dear colleagues, dear friends!

Today the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) celebrates its 20th anniversary. Over these two decades as part of the FATF family, we have travelled a long way, overcome many obstacles and achieved significant results in strengthening the financial security of the countries of the region.

We are proud to have become a united front in the fight against transnational organised crime, money laundering and terrorist financing. Together we have developed and implemented effective co-operation mechanisms.

The EAG has become a respected international forum for discussing important issues and developing joint solutions to mitigate the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing in the Eurasian region.

The EAG continues to actively cooperate with the FATF Secretariat, FATF-style regional bodies, UN specialised committees and other international organisations, and participates in the development of global standards and recommendations. Today we reaffirm our commitment to common goals and readiness to further strengthen and develop co-operation.

I am confident that through our common efforts we will continue to strengthen the financial security of our countries and create a more stable and secure world.

I wish all EAG Member States further success and new joint achievements for the benefit of global financial security!

I express my gratitude to the Secretariat of the Group for its active work and comprehensive assistance to the EAG Member States! All the best!

Results of the 40th EAG Plenary meeting

The meetings of the EAG Working Groups and the 40th Plenary Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) were held in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) on May 27-31, 2024. The meetings were attended by the representatives of all EAG Member States, the FATF and MENAFATF Secretariats as well as the following observers and invited delegations: Armenia, Iran, Mongolia, Serbia, USA, ADB, BCBOP, CHFIU, CIS ATC, CIS Executive Committee, CSTO, EDB, EBRD, EEC, OSCE, SCO, UNODC, UNOCT, Azerbaijan, Japan and UAE.



The Plenary was chaired by the EAG Chairman Mr. Yury Chikhanchin (Russian Federation) and the EAG Deputy Chairman Mr. Shamsiddin Sohbnazarov (Republic of Uzbekistan).

The welcoming speech to the Plenary on behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic was made by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers - Head of the Presidential Administration Mr. Akylbek Zhaparov.

The Plenary discussed and adopted the Republic of Tajikistan's 5th Enhanced Follow-Up Report with re-rating, which will be published on the EAG website after passing the post plenary quality and consistency procedure of the FATF Global network. Also, the Plenary heard and adopted the Turkmenistan's 1st Enhanced Follow-up report without re-rating.

The Plenary approved the EAG Procedures for conducting the third round of mutual evaluations of the national AML/CFT/CPF systems of the EAG Member States and monitoring their progress, as well as the sequencing of mutual evaluations of the countries within the 3rd round. The approval of these documents allows to start practical engagement with the countries that will be evaluated first in the upcoming new round. Member States commit themselves to start preparations for a new round of EAG mutual evaluations.

The Plenary received information on the implementation of the voluntary tax compliance program of the Kyrgyz Republic and on measures taken to prevent the program from being used for criminal purposes. Also, the Plenary was informed about the extension of the voluntary tax compliance program of the Republic of Tajikistan until the end of 2024.

The concept note and the questionnaire of the project to develop an information bulletin covering the information on the activities of terrorist groups in the region as well as the ways and methods of financing their activities, considering the

development of modern payment technologies was approved by the Plenary Meeting. The project will be conducted jointly with the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS ATC). It is planned that the results of the project will have practical application both in the operational sphere of counter-terrorism and financial intelligence units and in mutual assessments of EAG Member States in terms of providing an understanding of TF risks at the national level (Immediate Outcome 1), as well as identifying the specific role of individuals and organisations involved in terrorist activities (Immediate Outcome 9).

The Plenary heard information on the implementation of the Plan (roadmap) to minimize regional ML/TF risks in the Eurasian region and approved Criteria for identifying suspicious money recovery lawsuits for the purpose of money laundering and the draft unified form of feedback on international requests between FIUs of the EAG Member States and a form for bilateral reconciliation. The development of criteria of the suspicious character of the money recovery lawsuits is aimed at counteracting the use of mechanisms of judicial procedures for laundering criminal proceeds and will allow representatives of the justice authorities of the Member States to identify possible elements of such unlawful actions and respond to them in a timely manner. Adoption of draft unified forms of feedback between FIUs of the Member States on international requests and bilateral forms of reconciliation is aimed at strengthening the mutual exchange of information between FIUs of the Member States on the results of bilateral cooperation and the most complete implementation of the relevant FATF Standards.

The Plenary approved the concept note of the project for regional assessment of the proportionality and dissuasiveness and effectiveness of sanctions applied to legal entities in the EAG Member States. The aim of the Project is to assist EAG Member States in the effective implementation of the requirements of FATF Recommendations 3 and 24 and achieving

effectiveness under Immediate Outcomes 5 and 7 in terms of the application of proportionate and dissuasive and effective liability measures for legal entities.

The Plenary Meeting approved the organisation of the joint EAG and the CIS CCPG forum for prosecutors on AML/CFT/CPF issues in the 4th quarter of 2024 in Minsk of the Republic of Belarus as well as the main aspects and the concept of the forum.

The Plenary approved the EAG Budget for 2025 and the EAG work plan for 2024-2025.

The Plenary meeting granted Japan the EAG observer status. The Plenary noted the importance of engagement with Japan and expressed hope for fruitful cooperation.

The Plenary approved the Regulation on the use of Single Technical Assistance Coordination Information System (STACS), and was also briefed on the progress of the exploitation by the Member States, development partners and the Secretariat of the STACS and proposals for its further development. The Member States noted the user-friendly features of the STACS, which is aimed at improving TA coordination in the EAG to enhance the effectiveness of its Member States' national AML/CFT/CPF systems, their compliance with the FATF Standards and increasing productivity when implementing TA projects. The system was developed with the financial support of EDB.

The Plenary heard the Kyrgyz Republic's and the People's Republic of China's best practices on the national experience in the AML/CFT/CPF as well as the Republic of Uzbekistan's best practices on reforms in the anti-money laundering system of in the context of combating the informal economy and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the operation of the Financial Monitoring Academy (AML ACADEMY).

The Plenary approved the updated Plan for TA to the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of activities based on the outcomes of mutual evaluation. The Plan is aimed at improving national AML/CFT/CPF system in areas such as legislation compliance with FATF recommendations and strengthening the expert capacity of national competent authorities. The EAG invites Member States and observers who want to implement the Plan to cooperate as donors and providers.

Reports on the implementation of TA coordination projects in the Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan were also heard at the Plenary Meeting. The role of ITMCFM as a leading donor and provider in the implementation of TA project plans for EAG Member States was emphasized.

The Plenary heard interventions of the observers, thanked for the experience presented and expressed the hope for further cooperation. The Plenary and Working Groups were informed about Iranian measures in AML/CFT area and their updates

regarding laws and regulations in line with international standards, especially supervisory measures.

In the margins of the 40th EAG Plenary Meeting, the 3rd Forum of Parliamentarians of the EAG Member States was held, which brought together representatives of legislative and executive authorities of the Eurasian region and international organisations to discuss issues related to mitigating ML/TF risks associated with innovation, new technologies and virtual assets. The Forum participants adopted the Declaration of outcome reflecting the willingness of parliamentarians to join efforts at international level to combat predicate offences committed through the use of new technologies.

The Plenary welcomed the outcomes of the International Scientific and Practical Forum (24-26 April, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russian Federation) as well as the workshop on the updated FATF Standards that was hosted within the 40th Plenary Week.

The Plenary approved the establishment of the Association of Press Services of Financial

Intelligence Units of the EAG Member States as well as the Concept of activities of the Association, which is aimed at deepening media interaction between the FIUs of the EAG Member States, creating a common information space and increasing the recognition of the Eurasian Group in the international arena.

The Plenary was briefed on the implementation of the International Financial Security Movement initiative, the preparation for the 4th International Financial Security Olympiad, which will take place from 30 September to 4 October 2024 on the "Sirius" Federal Territory at the initiative of the Russian Federation, which provides the organisation and coordination of the participants of the Olympiad, and its financing, and the International Financial Security Forum "Sirius-2024". The Plenum expressed its support for the development of the International Financial Security movement.

The Plenary expressed gratitude to the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the 40th EAG Plenary Meeting and working group meetings, as well as for the high level of organization.

APG Annual Meeting and Technical Assistance and Training Forum

From September 22 to 27, 2024, the EAG Secretariat participated in the APG Plenary Meeting and Technical Assistance and Training Forum held in Abu Dhabi (UAE)



The meeting organized by the UAE National Committee for Combating Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Illicit Organizations was attended by more than 400 delegates from Asia-Pacific countries, as well as organizations and observer countries.

During the annual meeting, delegates discussed important issues and took meaningful decisions aimed at strengthening international cooperation and enhancing overall effectiveness in combating serious financial crimes, including money laundering, terrorist financing, and WMD proliferation financing.

The APG adopted a new strategic plan for the period 2024-2028, as well as the co-chairs' priorities for the period 2024-2026. Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs) of four countries (Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, East Timor) were adopted.

The APG members also adopted the MER of India as a result of the joint FATF/APG/EAG mutual evaluation. The EAG Secretary congratulated India on successful completion of the report and noted significant achievements of India in improving the national AML/CFT/CPF system.

The United Arab Emirates as a host country presented its experience of virtual assets regulation framework, implementation of the public-private partnership

mechanism in the field of AML/CFT, and also implementation of measures on ensuring transparency of beneficial ownership of legal entities.

APG granted observer status to the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJL), which recently launched a large-scale technical assistance program in the Asia-Pacific region.

APG also removed one jurisdiction, the DPRK, from the observer list due to a lack of engagement for six years.

In addition, APG welcomed Mr. Mitsutoshi Kajikawa (Japan), Deputy Vice-Minister of Finance for International Affairs of the Ministry of Finance of Japan, as the new APG co-chair for 2024-2026.

In parallel to the Annual Meeting, the APG held its 22nd Technical Assistance and Training Forum. This Forum provided a platform for cooperation to ensure coordination, consistency and synchronization of AML/CFT technical assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum was attended by 25 technical assistance recipient countries and 19 donors and providers.

On the margins of the Forum, the EAG Secretariat held talks with potential donors and providers on the possibility of providing technical assistance to EAG Member States.

RATS SCO and CIS Conference on Combating Terrorism

The EAG Secretariat took part in the Tenth International Scientific and Practical Conference of the RATS SCO and the Second CIS Conference on Combating Terrorism, held on September 4-5, 2024 in Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan).



The event was co-organized by the State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, CIS Anti-Terrorism Center and SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure.

The Conference including a plenary meeting and five thematic sessions will be attended by the delegations: competent authorities of 20 CIS member-states and SCO member-states, observer states at SCO and SCO dialogue partners; working structures of 9 CIS bodies; working structures of 2 CIS bodies; 10 authorized agencies of 6 international organizations, including Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism; 22 scientific-research and educational organizations.

While assessing the contemporary challenges and threats, the speakers noted that the situation in the area of countering terrorism remained highly tense amid the intensifying geopolitical struggle and the use of terrorist methods in it, relentless regional conflicts and noticeably worsened old contradictions. Terrorism remains one of the most dangerous problems of our society requiring a strong stand and coordinated efforts of the entire international community, they stressed.

During the Conference, participants:

- exchanged their assessment of the main threats to the collective and national security and gave forecast of their development, as well as the practices of countering terrorism and extremism;
- noted a steady trend of increasing radicalization of the population, especially young people, caused by the continuing activity of terrorist ideologists in the information space and the use of modern information and telecommunications technologies by international terrorist organizations;
- identified the need for further development of interstate measures aimed at countering the fusion of transnational crime and international terrorist organizations, intensifying international cooperation in the fight on drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons, ammunition and technical means used for terrorist purposes, and stressed the importance of coordinated actions to prevent the use of migration channels for the movement of persons involved in the terrorist and extremist activities;
- focused on the need to employ the capacity of inter-parliamentary structures to further improve the legal framework for multilateral cooperation in the field of countering terrorism and extremism, as well as the development of international rules of conduct in the information sphere;
- reviewed topical issues of international counter-terrorism cooperation, assessed the state and efficiency of response mechanisms to emerging modern challenges, confirmed a firm commitment to further strengthening professional cooperation, and emphasized the need to use joint capacities in developing comprehensive counter-terrorism measures with the leading role of the UN in coordinating efforts to combat terrorism;
- discussed measures to improve scientific and educational support for activities to combat terrorism and extremism, exchanged practices in organizing educational, methodological and research work, by noting among the promising areas of training the development and implementation of educational programs in the field of cyberterrorism, the creation of methodological centers in national educational organizations for the exchange of experience and best practices, and the study of the effectiveness of approaches to the rehabilitation and re-socialization of individuals who participated in terrorist and extremist activities.
- discussed issues of countering financing of terrorism, including the implementation of joint programs and projects aimed at increasing the efficiency of monitoring financial flows and identifying suspicious transactions, the development of databases on the platforms of the CIS ATC and the SCO RATS on terrorist organizations and individuals involved in the financing of terrorism;
- exchanged experience in countering extremist ideas actively disseminated with use of information and communication technologies, including the use of artificial intelligence technologies to monitor and analyze extremist content on social networks and the Internet, and counteract radicalization in virtual space.

The EAG Secretariat made a presentation on “EAG Methodological Guidelines on organizing and conducting financial investigations in the field of combating terrorism financing”.

International Network Institute's AML/CFT training event for academics and students in Sirius

On October 3, 2024 on the margins of the IV International Olympiad on Financial Security, the International Network Institute held a practical workshop on «International Movement. Blurring the boundaries: face to face» for the trainers and participants of the Training and Methodological Council of the Network Institute.



The Executive Secretary and experts of the EAG Secretariat provided a brief overview of the latest updates of the FATF Standards.

At the workshop, speakers briefed the participants on the main amendments to the FATF Recommendations in relation to combating the proliferation financing, asset recovery, protection of NPOs from terrorist financing abuse, beneficial ownership, and designated non-financial businesses and professions.

Participants discussed the EAG's role in the FATF's projects on updating the Standards and preparing for the forthcoming round of mutual evaluations, and suggested to hold similar workshops in the future.

Round Table of the CHFIU

On September 13, 2024 on the basis of Lobachevsky State University of Nizhny Novgorod the EAG Secretariat participated in the Round Table of the Council of Heads of Financial Intelligence Units of the CIS Member States, organized with the active assistance of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service, on the topic: "Countering the involvement of young people in the financing of illegal activities using modern financial instruments".

The participants of the event in the in-person physical format were more than 100 representatives of the scientific community, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, the Plenipotentiary Mission of the President, the Government of Nizhny Novgorod region, as well as the private sector.

In the online format, representatives of the CIS FIU; Interregional Departments of Rosfinmonitoring; ITMCFM; private sector and scientific and educational institutions of the International Network AML/CFT Institute participated in the event. In total, more than 5000 people from more than 10 foreign countries (Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Peru, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe).

The participants of the Roundtable discussed the use of game currencies, streaming services, crowdfunding, money mules and other new financial instruments. Representatives of the private sector, in particular the Association of Russian Banks, took an active part in the discussion.

Representatives of the FIUs of the CIS countries demonstrated the current practice of countering the use of virtual assets for criminal purposes, including the involvement of young people in illegal activities, and highlighted the national experience of legislative regulation in this area.

The EAG Secretariat made a presentation on "The practice of regulation by the global network of the use of modern instruments in the financing of illegal activities".

Training for the EAG Member States and development partners on the use of the Single technical assistance coordination information system (STACS)



On October 10, 2024, the Secretariat held an online training on the use of the Single technical assistance coordination information system (STACS). The event was attended by the representatives of the EAG Member States. The training focused on discussing the practice of using the System and procedures for completing the effectiveness surveys in the STACS. In the course of the event participants asked questions and the Secretariat provided comprehensive feedback.

Briefing of the EAG Secretariat for representatives of the embassies of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Russian Federation

On October 28, 2024 by the initiative of the Secretariat of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), a briefing was held in Moscow at the Eurasian Studies Institute of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation with the participation of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Esen Aydogdyev and representatives of diplomatic missions of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The event covered in detail the issues of preparation of these countries for the 3rd round of mutual evaluations of the EAG and provision of the necessary technical assistance (TA) by the Eurasian Group.



In particular, within the framework of the Eurasian Group all conditions for successful completion of assessments have been created: training of expert-assessors is carried out on a systematic basis, consulting support is provided to explain the new FATF Standards, ML/TF risks are assessed and measures are taken to mitigate them. Effective cooperation mechanisms have been developed and implemented, ranging from meetings of financial intelligence officers to events involving law enforcement and supervisory authorities, the private sector and parliamentarians. The International Compliance

It was noted that as a FATF-style regional body, the EAG conducts mutual evaluations, in which the national anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) systems of the Member States are evaluated for compliance with international standards. In June 2024, following the approval of India's mutual evaluation report by the FATF Plenary, all of the EAG Member States completed the 2nd round of evaluations. A new, third, round of mutual evaluations will begin in late 2025.

Since the primary goal of the Eurasian Group is to improve the national anti-money laundering systems of the countries of the region in accordance with the requirements of the relevant international organizations, primarily the FATF, the new round of mutual evaluations of the EAG will allow to determine whether the work in this direction has been properly organized both at the state level and within the Group itself.

Moreover, we should not forget that the results of mutual evaluation are largely perceived by foreign business circles as a "business card" of the country and an indicator of the reliability of its financial system. In this context, the AML/CFT systems of Member States should be considered not only from the perspective

of combating crime, but also as an important tool in ensuring socio-economic stability and financial security. Thus, poor mutual evaluation results could incur not only reputational costs, but also damage the economic development of a State.

It was emphasized that mutual evaluations do not assess the financial intelligence unit or the supervisory or law enforcement units individually, but the country's AML/CFT system as a whole. With this in mind, national coordination at a high political level, as well as the broad participation of agencies in the preparation and conduct of the mutual evaluation was important.

The reasons of lack of effectiveness in the state supervision and monitoring in the AML/CFT, revealed during the previous assessments, as well as the work of the Member States aimed at their elimination, were noted.

The attention of the participants was drawn to the fact that the schedule of the 3rd round of assessments was approved by the EAG Plenary meeting, their terms are known for each of the countries of the Eurasian Group.

During the briefing it was emphasized that in accordance with its statutory documents and the Strategy for 2024-2028, the EAG not only conducts mutual evaluations of the Member States, but also provides them with the necessary assistance.

Council, the AML/CFT Forum, the Supervisory Forum, and the Parliamentarians' Forum are functioning successfully. An initiative to organise a Prosecutors' Forum has been approved.

A special focus was made on the issue of providing TA to the countries of the Eurasian region. It was emphasized that the system of providing targeted support to the Member States on the implementation of the FATF Standards and best practices has been created within the EAG margins, in the framework of which relations with development partners in the region and in the world have been built. TA donors and providers are focused on meeting the real needs of countries and achieving tangible results. At the current stage, the implementation of measures within the national TA plans aimed at addressing the shortcomings identified in the previous mutual evaluation and preparing for the next round of mutual evaluations is of particular importance.

In conclusion, it was noted that, taking into account the above, interaction within the framework of the EAG is of particular importance for the countries of the Eurasian region. Being an active participant of the FATF Global Network and taking a leading position in it, EAG has proved to be a reliable partner in the development of anti-money laundering systems of the Member States and achievement of their national development priorities.

Workshop for the assessed country

From 30 October to 1 November 2024 in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) the EAG workshop on preparation of the country for the third round of mutual evaluations of national AML/CFT/CPF systems of the Eurasian Group Member States was held. The seminar was organised with the support of the OSCE and UNODC Programme Offices in Bishkek.



The purpose of the training event was to provide an understanding of the assessment process, explain the EAG procedures and the FATF Methodology to improve the effectiveness of the team of the assessed country.

The workshop was attended by policymakers and staff of government agencies and private sector

organisations. This composition allowed for a comprehensive discussion of strategic and operational issues related to AML/CFT/CPF and the role of each participant. Secretariat staff and a UNODC expert shared experiences and best practices in preparing for the new round of mutual evaluations.

Within the framework of the event a high-level meeting of the EAG Executive Secretary with the management of the Financial Market Regulation

and Supervision Service under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic was held.

Preparation of the EAG Member States for the third round of mutual evaluations is a priority task of the EAG. In this regard, the Secretariat will continue the practice of holding such workshops with the involvement of experts from member states and international organisations.

Assessors training

The EAG Secretariat conducted another scheduled training of assessors for the upcoming third round of mutual evaluations of national AML/CFT/CPF systems of the EAG Member States in Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan), from 4 to 8 November 2024. The event was organised with the support of the Financial Monitoring Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan and International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring of the Russian Federation.



Experts representing government agencies from Belarus, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the training. Representatives of financial intelligence units from Azerbaijan and Serbia were also trained alongside experts from the EAG Member States.

During the training, the participants studied the procedures for conducting the third round of mutual evaluations in accordance with the updated procedure approved by the 40th EAG Plenary Meeting in June 2008. In addition, the Secretariat familiarised the trained experts in detail with the requirements of the Methodology for assessing technical compliance with the FATF Recommendations and the effectiveness of AML/CFT/CPF systems.

The training was supplemented by practical exercises, during which the participants had the opportunity to independently evaluate the examples provided and to report on the main findings and key recommendations for improving the AML/CFT/CFTP system of the fictitious country being assessed.

The training programme is based on FATF materials and is fully compliant with FATF requirements, enabling trained experts to take part not only in EAG mutual evaluations, but also in FATF and other FATF-style regional bodies.

The EAG Secretariat plans to deliver similar training events in the 2025, taking into account the need for well-qualified assessors.

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