

COLUMN OF THE EAG CHAIRMAN



Dear colleagues,

With the fundamental transformation of the world economy, the financial systems of the countries of the Eurasian region are facing new challenges and threats. The EAG remains committed to full compliance with international AML/CFT/CPF standards and seeks greater engagement with the FATF and other FSRBs. As the results of the second round of mutual evaluations show, Member States have strengthened to a certain extent their national AML/CFT/CPF systems. The start of the next round of mutual evaluations planned for 2025 acts as an opportunity for preparation towards further development of the national anti-money laundering systems in terms of its effectiveness.

This will be facilitated by the Plan (Roadmap) to minimize the identified regional ML/TF risks in the Eurasian region, which was approved in November 2022 and provides for activities and measures aimed at mitigating common threats of the member states. These include the activities of international terrorist organisations, pyramid schemes and drug trafficking. Virtual asset transactions and the risks of circulation of cryptocurrencies require special attention.

The Single technical assistance coordination information system of the EAG is developed to improve the delivery of technical assistance through the collecting of information on Member States' needs, progress of activities and events, analysis and assessment of the effectiveness of the assistance provided.

We would like to highlight the Forum of Parliamentarians and the International Association of Training and Methodological Centres among perspective forms of cooperation. Other new forms of cooperation continue to operate in the EAG - the International Olympics Movement, the International Compliance Council and the Law Enforcement Forum.

The Eurasian Group is actively engaged in the development of the FATF Global Network, whose experience and expertise are relevant and in demand.

I am confident that the interaction within the EAG provides and ensures for effective cooperation, first and foremost in the areas of anti-terrorism and anti-crime, for the benefit of the financial security of our countries.

**EAG Chairman
Yuri Chikhanchin**

Results of the 38th EAG Plenary meeting

The meetings of the EAG Working Groups and the 38th Plenary meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) were held in hybrid format in Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan) on June 4-9, 2023.

The meetings were attended by the representatives of the EAG Member States and observers, the FATF Members and Secretariat as well as FATF-style regional bodies and the UAE.

The Plenary was chaired by the EAG Chairman Mr. Yuri Chikhanchin (Russian Federation) and the EAG Deputy Chairman Mr. Dovran Khalbaev (Turkmenistan).

The welcome address to the Plenary of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev was made by the Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Olzhas Bektenov.

The Plenary adopted the Mutual evaluation Report and the Executive Summary of Turkmenistan under the 2nd Round of EAG mutual evaluations.

The Plenary adopted the Mutual evaluation Report and the Executive Summary of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the 2nd Round of EAG mutual evaluations.

The Plenary considered the 4th follow-up report of the Republic of Tajikistan without TC re-rating under the 2nd round of the EAG mutual evaluations and noted the progress made by the country in improving its AML/CFT system.

The Plenary considered the 1st follow-up report of the Republic of Uzbekistan with TC re-rating under the 2nd round of the EAG mutual evaluations and noted the progress made by the country

in improving its national AML/CFT system.

The Plenary, having heard the information of the Kyrgyz Republic on the law "On voluntary legalization and amnesty of assets of individuals" adopted by the Parliament, noted the need for legal analysis of this law and preparation of the relevant report according to the EAG procedure, and also called the Kyrgyz Republic to implement this law in compliance with the basic FATF principles.

The Plenary agreed to grant the EAG observer status to the Council of Heads of Financial Intelligence Units of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CHFIU). The delegations noted the importance of cooperative engagement with CHFIU and expressed hope for fruitful cooperation.

The Plenary Meeting approved the EAG Budget for 2024, the EAG Annual report for 2022, the EAG work plan for the 2nd half of 2023 and 2024.

The Plenary approved a new version of the Regulation for the Contest for the best cooperation between the competent authorities in the field of combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

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The Plenary adopted a concept note on the development of the EAG typologies registry and the outcomes of the typologies project on "Typologies and trends in combatting terrorist financing". An update on the risks associated with instability in Afghanistan has been delivered and the next steps in the implementation of appropriate monitoring have been identified.

The Plenary took note of the ongoing results of the Plan (roadmap) to minimize regional ML/TF risks and approved an addendum to the Plan.

The Plenary approved the results of the project to develop "The best practices for sectoral ML/TF risk assessment", implemented by the representatives of the EAG Member States supervisory authorities at the initiative of the Russian Federation.

The Plenary adopted the launch of the Single technical assistance coordination information system of the EAG (STACS) on the EAG website. The EAG STACS objectives is to improve TA coordination in the Eurasian region in order to strengthen the effectiveness of EAG Member States' national AML/CFT systems and their compliance with FATF Standards.

The Plenary heard the reports on implementation of TA coordination projects to the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The role of ITMCFM as a leading donor in implementation of TA project plans for the EAG Member States was noted.

The Plenary heard the information about legislative policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in AML/CFT sphere and the Strategic Plan of IRIFIU, including strategic priorities, projects and applicable programs.

The Plenary positively noted the outcomes of the EAG Supervisory Forum and the International Compliance Council Meeting and also took note of the publication on the EAG website of a brochure of typological schemes presented at the first competition among banks.

The Plenary positively noted the work accomplished on the publication of the speeches of the first Forum of Parliamentarians of the EAG Member States on the EAG and ITMCFM website, as well as distribution of brochures to EAG Member States and observers. The Plenary was informed about the

results of the Second Forum of Parliamentarians of the EAG Member States held on June 6, 2023, to discuss legislative practices to combat the financing of terrorism, extremism and radicalization of the youth in the EAG Member States.

The Plenary expressed support for the activities of the International Network AML/CFT Institute member universities in holding the International Financial Security Olympiad, including the creation of an International Scientific and Educational Digital Platform "SODRUZHESTVO" and the functioning of the Center for Inter-Olympic Training of Schoolchildren and Students at the P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The Plenary expressed gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for the hospitality and excellent organization of the 38th EAG Plenary and its working groups meetings as well as the Forum of Parliamentarians of the EAG Member States.

The 39th EAG Plenary meeting will be held in the People's Republic of China in November 2023.

CTED second follow-up visit to Uzbekistan

From 28 November to 2 December 2022, CTED on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee concluded the physical component of the second follow-up assessment visit to Uzbekistan.



The virtual component of the visit was conducted on 12 - 16 July 2021. The visiting delegation consisted of CTED experts, as well as experts from the following United Nations bodies and international organizations: the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT); the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); the United Nations Regional Centre

for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA); the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (EAG); the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); the World Customs Organization (WCO); the Anti-Terrorist Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-ATC); the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO).

The visit enabled the delegation to assess progress made by Uzbekistan in adopting measures to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) and other relevant Security Council resolutions.

The EAG Secretariat will take into account the recommendations of the UN CTC following this visit in order to improve the effectiveness of technical assistance to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

64th MONEYVAL Plenary meeting

The EAG Secretariat participated in the 64th plenary session of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) from 5 to 9 December 2022, which took place in a hybrid format.



The event was opened by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Bjørn Berghe. This meeting, marking the 25th anniversary of the organisation, was attended by invited guests such as Ms. Violine Clerc, FATF Executive Secretary and Mr. Jerome Beaumont, Executive Secretary of the Egmont Group.

The plenary discussed and adopted the mutual evaluation reports of Estonia and Monaco and the follow-up report of Lithuania.

An exchange of views was held with representatives of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and the UN University FAST project on the links between money laundering and human trafficking.

The document on strategic priorities of the organisation for the period 2023-2027 was considered with the participation of the former chairs and the executive secretary of MONEYVAL as well as scientific experts.

The EAG Secretariat has noted the importance of interaction between FSRBs in mutual assessment processes and expressed readiness to share experience on new planned directions of the organization, in particular on conducting regional ML/TF risk assessment and coordination of technical assistance.

The article of Mr. Yury Chikhanchin, the Director of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation for the American magazine «The National Interest»

(February 10, 2023)

Russia has always been and remains committed to strict compliance with its obligations in combating criminal proceeds. For twenty years as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), we have managed to develop one of the world's most advanced anti-money laundering regimes. The FATF mutual evaluation proved that in 2019.

Additionally, over recent years, the Russian Financial Intelligence Unit has accumulated unique experiences that it has willingly shared with all interested countries. In order to boost the capacity of law enforcement agencies, a number of educational programs are being actively fulfilled for experts from Central Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

The past year turned out to be unprecedented in terms of the politicization of international institutions combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). Blindly following the directive to inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia in retaliation for our desire to put an end to multi-year flagrant injustice in Ukraine, there is a wish to settle scores with us on different dialogue platforms.

No exceptions are made, even for purely expert and technical bodies designed to promote international cooperation in combating various kinds of financial crimes — the FATF, the Egmont Group, and Interpol. It appears that authors of anti-Russian initiatives, in a bid to "expel" Russia from everywhere, have completely lost touch with reality and forgotten about the dangerous consequences of dismantling the global AML/CFT system.

Despite measures taken by the international community, the threat of terrorism does not subside. It is naive to believe that terrorists and their facilitators have abandoned their plans to carry out attacks against humanity. They skillfully adapt to current realities and adjust emerging technologies to suit their needs.

The issues of transnational crime and the increasing involvement of terrorist organizations with drug trafficking are acute. In this context, it is important to remember that the majority (86 percent) of global illicit opium production takes place in Afghanistan. The potential increase in drug flows from there could destabilize any region of the world.

For this reason, the Russian Federation is putting considerable energy within the FATF-style Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, featuring countries that border the former Islamic Republic.

Russian authorities traditionally make a significant contribution to the security of both regional and international financial systems. The statistics speak for themselves: at our request, the funds of about two thousand persons involved in terrorism were "frozen" in foreign countries. However, with the

introduction of unilateral restrictions against Russia, the global financial security situation began to objectively worsen.

The attention of special governmental structures — initially called upon to fight crime with taxpayers' money — has been diverted to the search for Russian assets for their subsequent illegal blocking. As a consequence, serious cross-border offenses remain uninvestigated.

What can attempt to limit Russia's role in the multilateral anti-money laundering efforts result in? The answer is obvious: at the very least, it results in a weakening of the global financial system security. Any restrictions on interaction and exchange of information related to terrorism, drugs, fraud, cybercrime, money laundering, and other serious offenses make it difficult to trace illegal assets. The pursuit of dangerous criminal groups risks practically stopping.

As a result, the benefit of such ill-conceived actions is obtained directly by criminals, including by those who committed economic offenses in the countries that "frozen" useful and mutually beneficial enforcement contacts with Russia. There is no doubt that they will certainly take advantage of the emerging vulnerabilities in their own vested interests.

States that refuse to cooperate with the Russian government agencies on special issues of combating crime are, in fact, “shooting themselves in the foot”—exposing their own citizens and their national security to unreasonable risks.

The credibility of the FATF, well-known for its professionalism and high-quality expertise, is also suffering. It is sad that statements regularly

made during its meetings about the need of establishing international cooperation in combating the financing of terrorism without politicization and double standards are nothing more than empty rhetoric. Our former Western partners are clearly not rushing to put these declarations into practice.

It would seem that in the history of Russia's relations with Western countries, including the United

States, there are many examples of successful cooperation in countering terrorism and crime. Our joint efforts saved people's lives and brought criminals to justice. Facilitated strengthening of mutual financial security. Why destroy what has been built over the years?

Outcomes FATF Plenary, 22-24 February 2023

FATF Plenary Meeting under Presidency of T. Raja Kumar of Singapore was held from February 20 – 24, 2023. The EAG Secretariat participated in the event.

The main outcomes are:

Russian Federation membership was suspended. Rosfinmonitoring official statement on this issue has been published on its website.

Mutual Evaluation Reports of Indonesia (APG Member) and Qatar (GCC Member) were adopted. Both countries were placed on the enhanced monitoring.

The FATF “gray” list was updated. The “black” list remained unchanged.

Important steps have been taken to increase beneficial ownership transparency and prevent criminals from hiding illicit activity behind opaque corporate structures. A revision of Recommendation 25 “Transparency and Beneficial Ownership of Legal Arrangements”, as well as new Guidance



to help countries implement the requirements of Recommendation 24, “Transparency and Beneficial Ownership of Legal Persons”, has been agreed.

The Action Plan for the timely implementation by countries of the FATF Standards on Virtual Assets was approved.

FATF adopted the report “Countering the Ransomware Financing”. The document is aimed at assisting the law enforcement agencies to develop the necessary skills and tools to quickly collect key information, trace the nearly instantaneous virtual transactions and recover virtual assets/ The report is published at the FATF web-site.

The Plenary selected Mr. Jeremy Weil, from Canada to be the next FATF Vice President.

Brochure of the interventions of the Forum of representatives of the sectoral parliamentary committees of the EAG Member States participants

The I Forum of representatives of the sectoral parliamentary committees of the EAG Member States took place on November 23, 2022, on the margins of the 37th EAG Plenary Meeting, where the participants discussed experience in developing and enacting the laws aimed at the implementation of international AML/CFT/CPF standards, as well as in introducing mechanisms to monitor their enforcement.

MENAFATF typology workshop

On March 7-9, 2023 in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) a seminar on typologies and capacity building in combating money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) was held.



In the course of the event new methods, trends and ways of committing ML and TF, as well as tools to combat them were discussed with the participation of experts from MENAFATF member and observer countries, as well as regional and

international organizations, including the EAG. The EAG Secretariat presented the outcomes of the regional risk assessment project and the results of the typological study on ML/TF through the use of electronic money or virtual assets.



The EAG Secretariat and the International Training and Methodological Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) have produced a brochure of the interventions of the Forum participants.

Outcomes of the meeting with donors and providers of technical assistance

On March 9-10, 2023 in Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan the meeting with donors and providers of technical assistance (TA) was held under the project launched in November 2022 to assist the country to address deficiencies identified in the 2nd round of the EAG mutual evaluations. The purpose of the event was to discuss the TA Plan for the Republic of Uzbekistan and to identify and involve development partners to the process of improving its national anti-money laundering system.



The Head of the Department for Combating Economic Crimes under the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan Rahimov Dilshod addressed the participants of the meeting with a welcoming speech. The high interest to cooperate with donors for the implementation of the TA Plan was noted, and the development partners were extended thanks for the assistance already provided and being provided.

Welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Hans-Ullrich Ihm, the Acting Head of Mission of the OSCE Project Coordinator's Office in Uzbekistan, Mr. Oleg Ivanov, the first deputy director general of the International Training and Methodological Centre for Financial

Monitoring of the Russian Federation (ITMCFM) and Mr. Sergey Teterukov, the EAG Executive Secretary.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of government authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union, Interpol, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the International Monetary Fund, ITMCFM, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Development Program in Uzbekistan, the Regional Dialogue, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Egmont Centre of FIU Excellence and Leadership, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Financial Monitoring Center of the

Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Financial Services Volunteer Corps.

In the course of the event, we were able to identify donors for a number of TA Plan items where Republic of Uzbekistan needs assistance, and agreed on areas of interest to development partners. Implementation of certain items of the Plan, where donors have already been identified, has been launched. Implementation of the remaining items of the Plan will be launched as information is received from development partners.

The EAG Contest among financial institutions

In November 2022, during the 37th EAG Plenary Meeting, an award ceremony was held for the winners and laureates of the first EAG Contest among financial institutions for the best AML/CFT financial analysis and risk profile example.

The contestants presented to the contest committee the analytical work of the AML/CFT compliance units in identifying suspicious activities. The event is intended to stimulate the dissemination of best practices within the professional community of the Eurasian region, as well as the promotion of public-

private partnerships in the anti-money laundering sphere.

The EAG Secretariat and the International Training and Methodological Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) have produced a brochure of typological schemes presented by contestants.

EAG

КОНКУРС ЕВРАЗИЙСКОЙ ГРУППЫ
СРЕДИ КОМПЛАЕНС-СПЕЦИАЛИСТОВ
ФИНАНСОВЫХ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ
ГОСУДАРСТВ-ЧЛЕНОВ ЕАГ
НА ЛУЧШИЙ ФИНАНСОВЫЙ
АНАЛИЗ В СФЕРЕ ПОД/ФТ

ЕВРАЗИЙСКАЯ ГРУППА ПО ПРОТИВОДЕЙСТВИЮ
ЛЕГАЛИЗАЦИИ ПРЕСТУПНЫХ ДОХОДОВ
И ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЮ ТЕРРОРИЗМА

2022

Single technical assistance Coordination Information System of the EAG

The Single technical assistance (TA) Coordination Information System of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG STACS) is designed to provide uniform standards for collection, storage, structuring, administration and analysis of TA data in the EAG space. The decision on its creation was made at the 35th EAG Plenary Meeting in November 2021. In November 2022 the project financially supported by the EDB was started, and in June 2023 the EAG STACS was launched by the decision of the 38th EAG Plenary.

The EAG STACS implements the provisions of the document "Rules on coordination of the Technical Assistance provided to the EAG Member States", whose objectives are to offer transparent and convenient rules for all participants, describing the main stages of work and outlining the role of each of them.

EAG STACS objectives - improve TA coordination in the Eurasian region to strengthen the effectiveness of EAG Member States' national AML/CFT systems and their compliance with the FATF Standards. In addition, the EAG STACS is aimed to consolidate EAG Member States, development partners resources, to minimize

risks of inconsistency and duplication of efforts of donors and providers, as well as improving performance in the implementation of TA projects.

The tasks of the EAG STACS are to greatly facilitate interaction of the beneficiaries with TA donors and providers. In the EAG STACS, each participant in the TA coordination process - Member States, donors and providers - has its own personal account, where the information on applications, the work process and some analytical tools are posted. In addition, personal accounts allow participants of the process to see the dynamics of TA provision and interact with each other.

FATF Virtual Asset Contact Group Meeting, April 12-14, 2023 Tokyo, Japan

On April 12 – 14, 2023 a regular meeting of the FATF Virtual Assets Contact Group was held.

In the course of the event, the progress of the FATF Global Network member countries in implementing the FATF Recommendation 15 and the execution of the roadmap aimed at accelerating the implementation of its requirements were discussed. The meeting also considered the practices of virtual asset sector supervision and the risks posed by the illicit use of virtual assets. The decision was made to continue joint work in order to combat illicit financial transactions with virtual assets and implementing the FATF Standards in this area.

Outcome of the Joint Forum of representatives of supervisory authorities and the International Compliance Committee

One of the priority directions of the EAG project activities is the implementation and development of a risk-oriented approach in the AML/CFT supervisory activities of the Member States, improvement of practices of identifying and assessing risks in the activities of supervised entities.



The experience of the EAG Member States' supervisory authorities and the private sector in AML/CFT illustrates that there is considerable potential for public-private partnership as a mechanism for the rapid exchange of information on risks and for raising awareness of actual schemes

and methods of laundering the proceeds of crime and terrorist financing.

In this regard, the Joint Forum of representatives of supervisory bodies and the International Compliance Council (ICC) "New landscape of risks and threats: compliance and supervision in

AML/CFT" took place in Moscow on 18-19 May at the initiative of EAG, Rosfinmonitoring and ITMCFM.

The Forum brought together experts from the private sector and supervisors, creating a unique platform to share common challenges and new ideas. The Forum was attended by around 200

representatives from all 9 EAG Member States. In addition, experts from Iran and the UAE, as well as from the CSTO and the SCO RATS participated in the Forum at the invitation of the EAG Chairman.

The objectives of the Forum were to take a broader view of the changing risk landscape and to synchronise approaches in the work of the private sector and competent authorities of the EAG Member States.

The two-day event was divided into 5 panel discussions covering such key topics as "Mitigating risks and threats in the budgetary sphere", "Perception of supervision by the private sector", "Use of information technologies in the anti-money laundering", "Accessibility and security of digital currencies", "Public-private partnership in the financial sector".

The audience was particularly interested in the presentations by representatives from China, Kazakhstan and Russia during the panel discussion on the circulation of digital currencies and crypto

assets. The speakers noted that regulatory issues in this area require in-depth joint work.

Experts from central banks, other supervisory authorities, financial intelligence units, banks, international financial groups, crypto exchanges, research institutes, industry associations and international organisations spoke at all panel discussions, which were moderated by representatives of Rosfinmonitoring and the EAG Secretariat.

Forum participants were also invited to take part in surveys on the main topics of the panel discussions, the results of which were immediately presented to the audience in a graphical format.

The private sector proposed topics for the next meetings of the ICC and the EAG typologies in the survey conducted by the EAG Secretariat, as well as suggestions for improvements to the ICC, the Supervisory Forum and competition between financial and non-financial institutions.

It should be noted that some of the proposals are already being implemented by the EAG Secretariat as part of the work plan to minimise regional risks. In particular, an aggregated list with links to publicly available registers has been prepared and is available on the IC section of the EAG website.

In addition to the agenda of the Forum, the participants took the opportunity to enjoy a cultural programme with walks through the most beautiful places of Moscow.

At the end of the Forum, it was noted that the tasks set had been achieved and that the proposed format of joint forum between regulators and the private sector had great potential and should be further developed. The word "trust" was chosen as the leitmotif of the Forum.

The Forum participants were invited to participate actively in the International Financial Security Olympiad and other international events on AML/CFT.

Outcome of the II Forum of the Parliamentarians of the EAG Member States

On 6 June, 2023 the II Forum of Parliamentarians was held in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan bringing together the parliamentarians, including 4 vice-speakers of the national parliaments of the EAG Member States, as well as invited representatives of the Parliament of Armenia and delegations from Iran, Mongolia, USA, UAE, FATF and UN CTO.



Once again, the parliamentarians gathered at the EAG platform to discuss the most current and common threats and challenges related to the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology and radicalisation of youth in the countries of the Eurasian region.

During the discussions, the participants shared their experiences in implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of legislative measures to combat terrorism, extremism, propaganda of radical religious

ideas, incitement to commit unlawful acts and criminal use of civil society institutions.

The parliamentarians unanimously supported the idea of the need to consolidate efforts to counter the above-mentioned negative trends by suppressing their methods and channels of financing. Some EAG Member States provided examples of the harmonisation of sectoral legislation to this end.

The representatives of parliaments satisfactorily noted that the Forum has become an effective and demanded platform for developing approaches to address contemporary challenges and threats, as well as for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation in combatting money laundering and terrorist financing.

The participants of the Forum adopted the declaratory Rules of Procedure, which describe the organisational issues of the Forum's activities and formulate its status as an open platform for sharing experiences and best practices, discussing the most important issues and developing common approaches to the implementation of the FATF Recommendations in the national legislation of the EAG Member States.

At the end of the Forum, a final declaration was adopted stressing the need to strengthen regionally coordinated efforts to combat the spread of extremist and terrorist ideas, the radicalisation of young people and the involvement of non-profit organisations in illegal activities by harmonising approaches to legislative measures.

Declaration of the outcomes of the II Forum of Parliamentarians of the EAG Member States

Based on the results of the discussions at the II Forum of Parliamentarians (representatives of relevant parliamentary committees) of the Member States of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), the participants noted the followings with satisfaction.

Given the common nature for all the EAG Member States, the combat against the spread of extremist and terrorist ideas and the radicalisation of youth and the substitution of traditional theological values by pseudo-religious teachings through the suppression of financing channels for these activities should be regional and shall be coordinated.

In this regard, the Forum calls upon the EAG Member States to take measures on harmonization of the approaches to legislative regulation of combating regional risks of terrorist and extremist financing, as well as to counter the radicalisation of youth and the involvement of non-governmental non-profit organisations in illegal activities.

The Forum considers its main task as organizing and maintaining professional discussions of high-level experts on developing legislative approaches to mitigate the supranational risks and threats identified in the EAG work, disregarding the evolving international situation and other geopolitical factors, without imposing

any obligations, authorities or requirements on the EAG Member States.

The Forum maintains the status of a permanent platform for interaction between the parliaments of the EAG Member States and endeavours to be open to all interested EAG observers, international organisations as well as the member states of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the FATF-style regional bodies.

June 6, 2023

Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan

36th MENAFATF Plenary Meeting

The working groups and the 36th MENAFATF Plenary Meeting were held in Manama (Kingdom of Bahrain) from 20 to 25 May 2023.



The Plenary adopted the MERs for the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Lebanon and the State of Qatar, as well as the 3rd FUR for the United Arab Emirates with a re-rating. In addition, it was decided to launch a project to assess ML/TF risks in the MENA region, based on the approaches used and proven effective in the Eurasian region.

On the sidelines of the Plenary Meeting the EAG Secretariat made a presentation on the best practices in enhancing international cooperation in the field of combating the financing of terrorism in the Eurasian region.



**New
issue of
Financial
Security
magazine**

The new issue of Financial Security magazine №38, dedicated to international cooperation in the field of AML/CFT, has been published (posted on the Rosfinmonitoring website).

What's in the issue:

- Cooperation between countries: Experts from Belarus, Cuba, India, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, UAE, Uzbekistan share their experience in international cooperation and work in the field of AML/CFT
- International organizations and their work: EAG, CSTO, INTERPOL, CIS SRPF, EEU, MENAFATF, Egmont Group
- International projects in the sphere of financial security

SCO RATS Roundtable on Countering the Financing of Terrorism, including through the Proceeds of Drug Trafficking

On June 15, 2023, the headquarters of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tashkent hosted a meeting of the Round Table "Cooperation of the CSTO, CIS and SCO in the sphere of combating the financing of terrorism, including through the proceeds of drug trafficking - perspective forms and directions of development", organized by the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS, CIS ATC and CSTO.



The event was attended by representatives of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Coordinating Council of Border Troops Commanders, the Committee of Heads of Law Enforcement Units of the Council of Heads of Customs Services of CIS countries, the Bureau for Coordinating the fight against organized crime

and other forms of dangerous crimes in the CIS, Rosfinmonitoring, customs officials from Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, permanent representatives to the SCO RATS from India, Kazakhstan, China and Russia, members of the diplomatic corps from Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as representatives of the competent authorities of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, the participants considered issues of cooperation of relevant international organizations on issues of maintaining security in the region. They exchanged views on trends and specifics of threats related to drug trafficking and terrorist financing, as well as the most effective methods and practices for their suppression and neutralization.

During the meeting the report of the EAG Secretariat on combating the financing of terrorism in the Eurasian region, including through the use of proceeds from drug trafficking, was presented to the participants. The presentation noted the role of the Eurasian Group in strengthening national systems to combat terrorist financing in the Eurasian region, including in interaction with the SCO RATS; considered the results of the Regional ML/TF Risk Assessment; analyzed key threats, vulnerabilities and TF risks, including those related to drug trafficking, of a regional nature, and proposed regional measures to mitigate the identified risks.

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

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