

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. As a multilateral developmental investment bank, the EBRD uses investment as a tool to build market economies. Initially focused on the countries of the former Eastern Bloc it expanded to support development in more than 30 countries from central Europe to central Asia. Besides Europe, member countries of the EBRD are from all 5 continents (i.e. North America, Africa, Asia and Australia). Representatives of the EBRD attend MONEYVAL meetings on a regular basis. At its 52nd Plenary, the representative of the EBRD informed the Plenary about two initiatives aimed at combatting ML/FT: (1) targeted consultancy for financial institution clients to improve their own AML/CFT programs and help them to implement international best practices and local legislation; (2) trainings and seminars in the countries where the EBRD operates dedicated to international AML/CFT standards.

The Group of International Finance Centre Supervisors (GIFCS)

The Group of International Finance Centre Supervisors (GIFCS) is a long-established group of financial services supervisors with a core interest of promoting the adoption of international regulatory standards especially in the banking, fiduciary and AML/CFT arena. Representatives of the GIFCS attend MONEYVAL meetings on a regular basis. At its 52nd Plenary, the representative of the GIFCS brought to the attention of the Plenary inter alia the following points: (1) one of its current priorities is to support the FATF initiative to engage with the private sector in FinTech and RegTech developments; (2) GIFCS is also participating in the G20 initiative to improve the transparency of beneficial ownership; (3) the organisation will soon present its work on TSCP supervision to the FATF.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER FORUMS

Exchange of views with the Parliamentary Assembly and Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Mr Daniel Thelesklaf, Chairman of MONEYVAL, took part in an exchange of views with the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly (Tallinn, 27 May 2016) and the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 6 July 2016). The latter exchange of views took place on the occasion of the adoption of MONEYVAL's annual report 2015.

European Parliament

In his capacity as Chairman of MONEYVAL, Mr Thelesklaf was also invited as speaker to a hearing of the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA) on 13 October in Brussels, which he had attended together with Mr Matthias Kloth, the Executive Secretary of MONEYVAL. On the same day, he also represented MONEYVAL at a workshop on "Protection of the EU's financial interests - Recovery of money and assets from third countries in fraud cases" which had been likewise organised by the European Parliament.

Scientific and research conference "Threats and Risks to Global Economy"

The Chair and the Executive Secretary also participated in the scientific and research conference "Threats and Risks to Global Economy" (2-3 November 2016), which had been organised on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Rosfinmonitoring (the FIU of the Russian Federation).

Workshop on AML/CFT issues and current challenges

The Executive Secretary and Mr Michael Stellini (Head of Unit in the MONEYVAL Secretariat) took part in a workshop organised by the Armenian authorities (17-18 May 2016) on AML/CFT measures and current challenges, where issues identified in the MER of Armenia were discussed with representatives of the central bank, the general prosecutor's office, and the ministries of finance and justice as well as several LEAs.

Expert meeting on "Fostering Co-operation in Combatting Corruption and Money Laundering"

Mr Stellini also took part in an expert meeting on "Fostering Co-operation in Combatting Corruption and Money Laundering" on 5-6 September 2016 in Vienna, which was organised inter alia by the OSCE, the Office for Prevention and Fight Against Money Laundering of the Republic of Moldova and the EU High-Level Adviser in the field of Anti-Money Laundering in the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). His presentation dealt with "Initiatives of the international organisations aimed at minimising risks of using off-shore companies for money laundering crimes".

Workshops on the Financing of Terrorism

Ms Astghik Karamanukyan from the MONEYVAL Secretariat participated in a workshop in Brussels on 30 June 2016 on the financing of terrorism, which was organised by the AME (Anti-Money Laundering