

EuroMed Justice Programme

Seminar on “*Financial operations of money laundering*” (Amman, 17-20 July 2006)

Final Declaration

The regional seminar about “*Financial operations of money laundering*”, fourth seminar organised under topic 3 on “International dimension of financial procedures; financial and economic criminality, in particular money laundering” of the EuroMed Justice Programme within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean policy of the European Union (MEDA Programme of the European Commission (EC) -EuropeAid Co-operation Office), was held in Amman on 17-20 July 2006. The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and EU Member States (Belgium, Portugal and Spain). Moreover, the present seminar has brought together representatives from the Council of Europe, the FATF (Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering), the Belgian CTIF (*Cellule de Traitement des Informations Financières*), and the Portuguese judiciary police. The participants(*) are of the opinion that:

in conformity with:

1. The guiding principles of the EuroMed Justice Programme, i.e. :
 - a. The strengthening of cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean Partners in the field of justice;
 - b. The promotion of an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices;
 - c. The creation of mechanisms allowing for the practical implementation of this cooperation through, for instance, the development of a Euro-Mediterranean network in the field of judicial cooperation;
2. The operational conclusions of the opening conference of the EuroMed Justice Programme held in Brussels on 20 December 2004;
3. The operational conclusions of the preparatory meeting of topic 3 of the Programme held in Paris on 30-31st January 2006.

They acknowledge that this seminar has allowed them:

- To analyse, over a period of 4 days, the problematic of the financial operations of money laundering in the international context, in the framework of the fight against money laundering, mainly analysing international instruments such as the Council of Europe conventions of 1990 and 2005 on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and on the financing of terrorism, the 40 + 9 recommendations of the FATF on Money Laundering and the EU relevant instruments;

- To get a better insight into the links of money laundering with other crimes like corruption, organised crime and drug trafficking;
- To bear in mind the complexity of the fight against Money Laundering underlining the need of close cooperation not only at international level but also at national level between police and judicial institutions as well as the financial and non financial institutions in order to fight effectively Money Laundering;
- To get a better insight into the issue of the fight against Money Laundering by studying the most relevant financial operations of money laundering, like credit cards and electronic banking and an alternative remittance system like the HAWALA system;
- To stimulate an exchange of practices and experiences, through working groups and through plenary sessions on practical cases about money laundering, corruption and financing of terrorism;
- To establish contacts among participants in order to promote cooperation with the various institutions represented in the field of justice.

The participants took note of the upcoming dissemination of this declaration among the European Commission Directorates-General concerned, the EU Member States and the Mediterranean Partners.

Read and approved by all the participants in the seminar.

Amman, 20 July 2006

(*) See list in annex