



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT**  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY



**Trinidad and Tobago's FIU joins the Egmont Group**

Trinidad and Tobago's FIU ([FIUTT](#)) has been welcomed as a member of the [Egmont Group](#), the internationally recognised Anti Money-Laundering forum of Financial Intelligence Units, on July 3, 2013. This development will greatly enhance information exchange between Trinidad and Tobago and other countries in anti-money laundering, financing of terrorism, and related investigations.

At the 21st Egmont Group Plenary which was held in Sun City, South Africa, the Head of FIUs unanimously agreed to FIUTT's admission to the Group.

The Egmont Group membership application process requires sponsorship by a number of Egmont member FIUs and the FIUTT was ably guided by the British Virgin Islands FIA and the Bahamas FIU. The Egmont membership application process required the sponsors to conduct an onsite inspection of the FIUTT and report to the Egmont Outreach Working Group (OWG) and the Legal Working Group (LWG).

The FIUTT satisfied the requirements of the OWG in 2011 and the LWG in February this year, after providing detailed clarification of Trinidad and Tobago's AML/CFT legal regime. Thereafter, the OWG and the LWG recommended the FIUTT for admission to the heads of FIUs at the Egmont plenary.

Seven other FIUs, including the Holy See (Vatican City State), were also endorsed as new members. In congratulating the new members the Egmont Chair, Mr. Boudewijn Verhelst noted that the new members will strengthen the global network of information sharing in areas of particular strategic and regional significance.

This achievement marks an important milestone in the growth and development of the FIUTT as it now joins 138 other FIUs that comprise the Egmont Group.

Financial Intelligence Units or FIUs were created as specialized governmental agencies as countries developed systems to deal with the problem of money laundering. FIUs are normally focused on the international financial services sector as money laundering and other financial crimes invariably involve international financial services.

Since its first meeting in June 1995, the Egmont Group FIUs meet regularly to find ways to cooperate especially in the areas of information exchange and support through training and the sharing of expertise.

The endorsement of FIUTT will strengthen this jurisdiction's ability to interact with a global network of FIUs, exchanging intelligence and co-operating in the fight against money laundering, the financing of terrorism and other serious crime.

This endorsement by the Egmont Group is a clear signal that Trinidad and Tobago is recognised internationally as being committed to preventing the abuse of its jurisdiction by criminals seeking to conceal or launder the proceeds of their crimes or to finance terrorism.

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