



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Ref. No: 90.2.5.6 / AS 1014

VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and, with reference to Verbal Note LA/COD/11/1, dated 6.1.2020, would like to submit the following information:

- **Greece** wishes to reiterate its strong support to the global fight against terrorism and to highlight its active participation in the relevant activities of international organizations and institutions.

Concerning latest developments and information, we would like to submit the following:

- **The Hellenic Anti-Money Laundering Authority's** operation, issues, composition and competencies are set out by Law 4557/2018, as in force.

The Authority is administratively and operationally independent and constitutes the national agency aiming at combating the legalization of proceeds from criminal activities and terrorist financing as well as the investigation of source of funds declarations, assisting in security and sustainability of fiscal and financial stability.

The Authority comprises three (3) independent Units with separate responsibilities, staff and infrastructure, as following:

- Unit A - Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- Unit B - Financial Sanctions Unit (FSU)
- Unit C - Source of Funds Investigation Unit (SFIU).

One of the core missions of the Authority, according to Law 4557/2018 as in force, is the collection, the investigation and the analysis of suspicious transactions reports (STRs) conveyed to it by the obliged legal entities and natural persons, as well as any other information related to the offences of money laundering and terrorist financing.

In addition, the Authority is responsible for the implementation of the UN Security Council & EU Sanctions, especially those related to terrorism and terrorism financing, and the compilation and observation of the national list of designated natural and legal persons or entities related to terrorism. The persons or entities included in this list are subjected to freezing of their assets and are denied the access to any financial act. The Authority is also in close cooperation with the law enforcement agencies, as well as the judicial authorities, exchanging financial intelligence with them in the field of terrorism financing.

The Hellenic FIU on the grounds of mutual cooperation and mutual interest and in order to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of persons suspected of money laundering, criminal activity related to money-laundering and associated predicate offenses, terrorism financing, and the financing of proliferation of mass destruction weapons, sharing also knowledge, methods, expertise and trends that enhanced the above scope and in order to

broaden its co-operational scope, has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on an international level.

Specifically, the Hellenic FIU is already part of bilateral MoUs with **twenty-three (23) jurisdictions**. The Authority has an active role with constant interaction with the UN and EU committees, as it is fully committed to the combat of international terrorism financing.

- Financial institutions supervised by **the Bank of Greece**, like all obliged persons, shall be informed without delay, pursuant to article 43 (1.b) of Law 4557/2018 by the competent Anti-Money Laundering authority of article 47 of Law 4557/2018 of all Resolutions issued by the United Nations Security Council.

Subsequently, financial institutions are required to act in accordance with the relevant resolutions, perform a thorough investigation to identify any assets of the named persons, including those directly or indirectly owned or controlled by the above persons. They are also required to provide detailed information on any type of transaction or activity and any other relevant data or information of the above persons to the Anti-Money Laundering authority.

The Bank of Greece, as competent authority for supervising financial institutions for compliance with the above requirements, shall impose the administrative sanctions of points (i), (v) and (vi) of article 46 (1a) of Law 4557/2018, against obliged legal persons or entities violating these obligations.

- **The Hellenic Police** actively participates in the international, European and regional efforts to counter terrorism. Greece has also signed several police cooperation agreements on a bilateral, trilateral and multilateral level, the provisions of which include cooperation in the field of combat against terrorism.

Throughout 2019 there is no record of cases in the Greek territory related to international terrorism. The competent Hellenic Police Authorities, following a European Arrest Warrant, have arrested one foreign individual, for reasons associated to terrorism activity. The said individual has been extradited to the requesting foreign authority.

- **The Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG)** is actively engaged in the fight against terrorism, cooperating closely with national, European and international institutions (Europol, Interpol, Frontex etc.), law enforcement agencies and security Authorities and exchanging information regarding terrorist networks while following relative legislation and monitoring international developments on the subject, as well as participating at workshops, trainings and relative meetings. The HCG through its regional Authorities and OPVs (Offshore Patrol Vessels), fully implements the UN resolutions and EU decisions and regulations regarding the combating of terrorism, as well as the financing of terrorism and its sources. All ships suspected of having connections with terrorism or with countries of interest and approaching Greek ports or transiting through Greek territorial waters are being checked (in cases where there is reliable intelligence creating reasonable suspicion that those ships are violating the abovementioned sanctions), as well as their crew members (in databases such as SIS II) and their cargo documents (cargo manifests, bills of lading). The EU's "Common Risk Indicators" are applied for timely tracing Foreign Terrorist Fighters, during the daily performance of duties of the regional HCG Authorities, but mainly during the procedure of first line checks of persons illegally entering the country, with emphasis on those arriving from countries of interest.

The Hellenic Coast Guard does not have any record of cases related to terrorism.

- Moreover, according to latest information received **by the Ministry of Justice**, during the reporting period, 10 suspects of international terrorism activity were brought before justice and according to the respective decisions of the Greek courts of justice, none of those individuals was found guilty.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 May 2020

To: The Office of Legal Affairs of the UN

In Town