

Organised by: Ministry of Economy/AZE

Session Type: Panel Discussions

Session Title

The Role of FIUs and their Law Enforcement Partners in the Fight Against Environmental Crime

Session Description

FIUs and law enforcement authorities play a pivotal role in combating environmental crime through several key actions:

- **Detection and Monitoring:** FIUs collect and analyze suspicious transactions that may be linked to environmental crimes, such as illegal logging, mining, and wildlife trafficking. By monitoring financial flows, they can identify patterns and networks involved in these activities.
- **Collaboration and Information Sharing:** FIUs work closely with law enforcement agencies to share intelligence and coordinate investigations. This collaboration enhances the ability to track and dismantle criminal networks involved in environmental crimes.
- **Enforcement of Regulations:** Law enforcement authorities use the intelligence provided by FIUs to enforce environmental regulations and prosecute offenders. This includes seizing assets obtained through illegal activities and imposing penalties on violators.
- **Capacity Building:** Both FIUs and law enforcement agencies invest in training and capacity building to improve their ability to detect and combat environmental crimes. This includes specialized training in financial investigations and the use of advanced analytical tools.
- **International Cooperation:** Environmental crimes often cross national borders. FIUs and law enforcement agencies collaborate with international counterparts to share information and coordinate actions against transnational environmental crime networks.
- **Public Awareness and Reporting:** By raising public awareness about the financial aspects of environmental crimes, FIUs and law enforcement authorities encourage reporting of suspicious activities. This helps in gathering more intelligence and strengthening enforcement efforts.

In this 60-minute panel session, experts from UNODC/Interpol/ WCO and Egmont member FIUs will discuss how these combined efforts help to disrupt the financial incentives behind environmental crimes and promote greater accountability and sustainability. The panel will also look into the abuse of legitimate business practices for committing environmental crimes (e.g. use of shell companies to serve as shipping agents, obscuring beneficial ownership and facilitating the movement of illicit goods).

Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Azer Abbasov, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board of the Financial Monitoring Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Fabrizio Fioroni, Adviser, Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism Law Enforcement Expert, Drug Control and Crime Prevention, UNODC
- Mr. Patrice Moreau, Team Leader, Intelligence Department, FINTAC - FIU Canada
- Mr. Pieter Smit, Acting Head of FIU South Africa