

REPORT ON THE JOINT GOPAC/ICA/PARLATINO ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING SEMINAR December 2005

Participants: 28 Parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean Region. For a complete list please see Appendix 2. Only 1-2 parliamentarians from the Dominican Republic participated due to parliamentary elections.

Panel: Meaghan Campbell, Program Manager, GOPAC

Marcelo Decoud, Director for Latin America and Caribbean Region, ICA Senator César Jauregui, Mexico, Vice Chair of LAPAC, Treasurer of GOPAC Senator Sonia Escudero, Chair of the Comisión Seguridad Ciudadana, Combate y Prevención Al Narcotrafirco, Terrorismo y Crimen Organizado and Comisión de Asuntos Politicos, Municipales y de la Integración

Purpose: The one day AML seminar for Latin American and Caribbean parliaments was intended to be an introduction to the basics of AML tools and resources as well as in overview of what parliamentarians could do to assist their countries in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The seminar is expected to be followed up by a more comprehensive seminar for interested parliamentarians in the region in early 2006.

Overview: The day began with Marcelo Decoud providing an overview of money laundering in Latin American and the Caribbean and its effects on the region while Senator Jauregui discussed the role of parliamentarians in efforts to combat ML and CFT. Please note that translation was not provided till after the opening panel, as a consequence much was missed of what was said in the opening session. Meaghan Campbell concluded the opening panel by introducing the work of GOPAC/LAPAC and its goal to education and support parliamentarians in the region to build the political will to both understand and to diminish money laundering the financing of terrorism in the region.

Participants of the conference mentioned a number of areas of concern to them in the area of both money laundering and corruption more generally. Financial of elections as well political party financing were identified as subjects that needed to be addressed by Latin American countries. The Caribbean parliamentarians emphasized the importance of including MPs from the Caribbean in AML/CFT seminars.

Results

- Participants agreed that that when discussing "the financing of terrorism" that the fact that there is no common definition of what and whom, terrorist groups are needs to be considered and thus, it may not be applied unilaterally.
- Commission members decided to meet again in February and discuss the need for a further AML session.
- Probable launch of a GOPAC national chapter in the Netherlands Antilles.

For further information, please contact
Irina Koulatchenko, Secretary of the Anti Money Laundering Task Force
at koulatchenko.irina@gopacnetwork.org