



Every decision  
matters

## Media Release

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### MENA FCCG Founder Michael Matossian Named Top Voice of Risk 2025 for Operational & Strategic Impact

Top Voices in Risk, presented by Taktile, is an annual distinction honoring trailblazers shaping the future of risk in financial services—those redefining the boundaries of risk leadership, mentorship, and innovation. Mr. Matossian, founder of the MENA Financial Crime Compliance Group (MENA FCCG) and Chief Compliance Officer at Arab Bank, has been recognized in the 2025 edition under the category of **Operational & Strategic Impact** for his sustained leadership in making a collective and driving a culture change by embedding ethical risk practices and advancing the regional financial crime compliance ecosystem.

Mr. Matossian's recognition stems from two decades of pioneering work championing a compliance culture across the MENA region with a message that organizations should achieve success only the right way, without ethical compromise. This includes aligning organizational business strategy and employee behaviors with the values of the organization to lead to good customer outcomes.

One of his more impactful contributions has been through the establishment of the **MENA FCCG in 2016**. MENA FCCG is an industry-driven, voluntary initiative, currently consisting of 13 leading financial institutions from eight MENA countries. It seeks to bring collective action in the fight against money laundering and terrorist finance in the region. Both the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) and London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) are Strategic Partners. The Group has a strategic alliance with GCFFC, Wolfsberg Group, Crime Stoppers International, GASA, RUSI, K2 Integrity, ACAMS, and United Nations. In November 2021, the Group officially launched a Europe Chapter to extend MENA FCCG's objectives to Europe by bringing together compliance professionals of Arab banks operating in Europe to enhance financial crime literacy and support implementation of best practices. The Arab Bankers Association serves as a strategic partner with Themis Services as a Strategic Alliance.



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Key MENA FCCG accomplishments:

1. **Enabled capacity building across smaller and mid-sized banks** through knowledge-sharing, peer benchmarking, and targeted guidance. This includes complimentary webinars on thorny compliance issues and an array of best practice tools and guidance (in Arabic and English language) including in the areas of combating corruption and bribery and illegal wildlife as well as best practice toolkits on harnessing a culture of ethics and implementing privacy and personal data protection programs.
2. **Fostered public-private collaboration** that bridged regulators, financial institutions, and international bodies to enhance regional alignment with global best practices. This includes advocating the establishment of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) at the regional and country level and engaging with key international bodies.
3. **Elevated the collective voice of MENA** on the global financial crime agenda, helping the region become a recognized participant in the development of more effective, risk-based frameworks. This includes the launch of the Trade Based Financial Crime (TBFC) Certificate from the American University of Beirut. Upon completion, participants are eligible to take the MENA FCCG – GCFFC endorsed Certification exam to earn the designation **Certified TBFC Specialist**.

Visit: [www.menafccg.com](http://www.menafccg.com)

This recognition celebrates not just a body of work, but a transformational shift in how risk is approached, migrating from the three traditional lines of defense to three lines of accountability and responsibility where cross functional collaboration and trusting teams, driven by a higher purpose with infinite leadership becoming the norm.

Taktile, the presenting organization, delivers AI-powered decisioning infrastructure for risk management, empowering institutions across financial crime prevention, credit risk, insurance, and payment services. Visit [www.taktile.com](http://www.taktile.com)