

2021 Highlights

Issue 3, December 2021



MENA FCCG

proudly celebrated its 5th anniversary since its inauguration on Sept. 26th, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain. The journey to make a collective impact continues.

MENA FCCG Holds Plenary Meetings

In March 2021, MENA FCCG held its first Plenary Meeting of the year. The Group welcomed an external presentation from Ms. AnnaLou Tirol, Deputy Director of FinCEN on outlook for FinCEN's engagement with the MENA region under the new US administration and the role of Public and Private Sector Partnerships.

In November 2021, MENA FCCG conducted its second virtual Plenary Meeting of the year. During the Meeting, members celebrated the Group's 5 year anniversary and on this occasion, viewed a new video reflecting the group's commitment to bring collective action in the fight against financial crime. [Click to view video in English or in Arabic.](#) The Meeting welcomed as speakers:



- ◆ Exp. Tarek Mohamed, Head Section – Virtual Assets Crime at Dubai Police HQ who delivered a presentation covering actions undertaken by the UAE to ensure readiness to the future of virtual assets.
- ◆ Mr. Ahmed Buckley, ex-UN Expert, Sanctions – Counterterrorism who delivered a presentation on implications of current security risks on UN Security Council priorities and challenges.



Celebrating the Group's anniversary, the Union of Arab Bank (UAB); as MENA FCCG's Strategic Partner, also released

montage of pictures commending the Group's efforts to date. [Click to view Pictures in Motion.](#)

MENA FCCG Launches Europe Chapter



MENA FCCG's Europe Chapter was launched in an inaugural meeting on November 29th, 2021 in London. The Chapter aims 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 leading practices. It will operate as an autonomous body under the umbrella of the MENA FCCG.

In June 2021, MENA FCCG welcomed new member, Bank Misr, represented by Mr. Mohamed Afifi, Group Chief Compliance Officer



GLOBAL COALITION TO FIGHT FINANCIAL CRIME

MENA FCCG Align Goals with Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC) – MENA Chapter

Early 2021 MENA FCCG successfully aligned its goals with that of the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC)– newly established MENA Chapter (GCFFC – MENA). Both groups have agreed on joining efforts and expertise on the following three key initiatives;

- ◆ Promoting the establishment of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the MENA region at the domestic level;
- ◆ Contributing to and augmenting the work of the GCFFC Expert Working Group on Corruption; and
- ◆ Establishing a regional project on Trade Based Financial Crime.

Other 2021 Highlights, MENA FCCG:

- ◆ Delivered a presentation on sanctions compliance to law enforcement and prosecutors in Jordan. The event, organized by the Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) and targeting law enforcement and prosecutors, seeks to pave the way for future outreach to law enforcement to enhance lines of communication between the public and private sector at the national level.
- ◆ Joined Rose Advisory Group; a consortium of Banks looking to establish a Global Screening Utility.
- ◆ Initiated contact with the Federation of Sudanese Banks to explore how MENA FCCG members can provide a lending hand to banks in Sudan in bolstering their compliance programs via awareness sessions (in the form of webinars) in collaboration with the Federation.