

To: Commissioner for Financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union, Mairead McGuinness

Brussels, March 8, 2024

Dear Commissioner for Financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union,  
Dear Mairead McGuinness,

On February 23rd the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to remove the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from its list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring, also called the grey list. The UAE had been listed by the FATF in March 2022, for serious weaknesses identified in the country's AML framework and sanctions enforcement.

Following the FATF decision, the Commission is due to adopt, in the coming days, a delegated act removing the UAE from the EU's list of high risk third countries, among other countries.

We recall that it took almost one year following the listing of the UAE by the FATF for the Commission to implement the listing decision in the EU legal order under Article 9 AMLD, despite public revelations, such as the 'Dubai Uncovered' scandal, which exposed large scale money laundering and corruption through property in the UAE, involving Russian oligarchs close to the Kremlin, and other persons convicted of crimes.

We further recall that, under the 2020 methodology, for countries in the EU scope, *“once the country is delisted by the FATF, the country is retained on the EU list until it has been established that this country meets the EU criteria for removal. Since the country was initially identified as presenting strategic deficiencies in its AML/CFT regime that pose a risk to the international financial system, the Commission services should check whether the country has corrected the deficiencies in order to ensure that it no longer poses a risk to the EU financial system. In order to ensure equal treatment between third countries in a similar situation (i.e. part of the EU scoping), any country presenting strategic deficiencies should be able to demonstrate that it fulfills the EU criteria before being de-listed.”*

Given the seriousness of the strategic deficiencies identified, and the seemingly brisk pace of reforms in the UAE to ensure a swift de-listing by the FATF, **we urge the Commission, on the basis of the methodology approved on May 7 2020 and the tools for engagement with the third country that it provides, to assess thoroughly whether the de-listing criteria are fully and effectively met before proposing the removal of the UAE from the EU list of high risk third countries.** This is all the more justified given claims by independent organisations, like Transparency International (TI), who have argued publicly that there is little sign the reforms the UAE has announced to combat money laundering and other financial crimes have been implemented. TI also claims it has evidence that UAE has not taken action on a number of known cases involving individuals facing sanctions in other jurisdictions.

**We further request the Commission to provide the following information:**

- detailed information on how the UAE strengthened the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime to meet the commitments in its action plan regarding the strategic deficiencies that the FATF identified in February 2022, including the UAE progress report;
- detailed information on how reforms carried out in the UAE to meet its comments under the FATF Action Plan satisfy the EU delisting criteria in particular, and its 3 requirements<sup>1</sup>.

Should it not be possible to provide some of this information in public format, we are willing to work on specific arrangements to access the requested information ensuring the strictest conditions for confidentiality.

Best regards,

Damien Carême - Co-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (Greens/EFA)

Eero Heinäluoma - Co-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (Socialists and Democrats)

Kira Peter-Hansen - Shadow-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (Greens/EFA)

Ramona Strugariu - Shadow-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (Renew)

Dragoş Pişlaru - Shadow-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (Renew)

Franco Roberti - Shadow-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (Socialists and Democrats)

Martin Schirdewan - Shadow-rapporteur for the Anti-Money Laundering Regulation (The Left)

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f745b6e8-735b-4855-b050-f52276356fe6\\_en](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f745b6e8-735b-4855-b050-f52276356fe6_en)