Southeast Asia Unites to Combat Regional Proliferation Finance Threats at EU-APG Conference

Bangkok conference strengthens regional cooperation in Southeast Asia to identify and mitigate risks of illicit financing for weapons of mass destruction programmes

BANGKOK, Thailand – 7 October 2025 – Representatives from 9 Southeast Asian countries and Sri Lanka are gathering in Bangkok this week, for a regional conference on combatting proliferation finance, marking a significant step forward to combat illicit financing of weapons of mass destruction across the region.

Jointly organised by the EU P2P Global Project, the EU Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT), and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the **"Proliferation Finance Southeast Asia Regional Conference"** brings together 40+ government officials, regulators, and financial intelligence experts from ASEAN members as well as Sri Lanka[1] to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices to address this critical global security challenge.

Proliferation finance - the act of providing funds or financial services to support the development, production, or acquisition of weapons of mass destruction - has emerged as a significant threat requiring a coordinated international response. With increasingly stringent international obligations, many countries are required to adopt and implement robust regulatory frameworks to effectively address and mitigate proliferation finance risks.

Balazs Maar, a representative from the European Union Delegation to Thailand highlighted the *"EU's commitment to supporting regional security and financial integrity in Southeast Asia, and the strategic importance of multilateral cooperation in tackling financial crimes that transcend national borders."*

Addressing both strategic and operational dimensions of proliferation finance, the conference is led by international experts who will cover emerging trends in virtual assets, the evolving regulatory landscape under the Financial Action Task Force framework, and practical tools for conducting effective Proliferation Finance National Risk Assessments.

Presentations by ASEAN members that have already completed Proliferation Finance National Risk Assessments - including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand - will also support peer learning and capacity building across the region.

"The APG remains firmly committed to supporting its members in assessing their exposure to risks associated with the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and applying the necessary measures to counter these risks. . By sharing experiences from within the APG membership, we can better support our region develop strong frameworks to counter proliferation financing," said Suzie White, APG Secretariat, Director Training and Capability.

[1] ASEAN members - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and Sri Lanka while not an ASEAN member but invited as a guest.

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A key focus of the conference will be the development of practical, actionable outcomes as participants work collaboratively to produce a handbook of lessons learned and best practices, as well as a comprehensive catalogue of regional proliferation finance risks that will support future National Risk Assessments.

About the Organisers:

EU P2P Global Project: EU P2P (Partner-to-Partner) Export Control Programme for Dual-use Goods is the European Union's flagship programme for establishing dialogue opportunities with partner countries on the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the management of international trade and financial transactions.

EU AML/CFT Global Facility: Established in 2017 by the European Commission, the project supports partner countries in strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures through technical assistance and capacity building.

Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG): An inter-governmental organisation with 41 member jurisdictions dedicated to implementing international standards against money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

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