

European Commission
 Joint Research Centre - Ispra Site

Date: 02.12.2016
 Mission No: DF-16-1295513

Mission Report

<i>Name</i>	<i>Directorate/ Unit/ Project</i>
██████████	I / 3/ EMM

Object of the mission

- Give a presentation about our work to
1. Eurofisc WF4 meeting group (combat against VAT fraud)
 2. Finnish Prime Minister’s Office and other authorities

Place, date, organizations visited and contacted persons

(Please continue on a separate sheet, if necessary)

17.11.2016 Eurofisc WF4 meeting group, Hotel Scandic Marski, Helsinki Finnish Prime Minister’s Office, Helsinki	██████████ (Eurofisc ██████████) ██████████ (Finnish Prime Minister’s Office)
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Other Participants	Distribution List
<i>Of the establishment</i>	<i>Obligatory(*) + Messrs.</i>
<i>Other services of the Commission</i>	██████████ (*), JRC I3 Unit, JRC i3@jrc.ec.europa.eu
	For sensitive mission reports, distribution must only be only to persons indicated by (*) and relevant staff members of the GlobeSec Unit

Main Results of the mission:

(Please attach as many separate sheets as necessary)

Background

The JRC has developed (with the mandate of DG HOME) a number of tools for media monitoring and Open Source Intelligence (commonly abbreviated as OSINT). These tools are used to monitor public media and to gather information from publicly available sources for law enforcement as well as for tax and customs purposes.

The Commission has adopted an action plan¹ to foster the cooperation of MS authorities in the fight against VAT fraud and to ensure the correct application and collection of VAT. As a tool towards this goal, the Eurofisc network has been established².

¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/vat/action-plan-vat_en

The chair of the November Eurofisc meeting in Helsinki invited us to give a presentation about our tools in order to encourage member state authorities to use open sources for VAT fraud investigations.

In November 2016, the JRC organised the annual EMM OSINT Workshop for officials from MS authorities. A delegation from Finland participated and expressed interest in our tools to be used in a yet to be established situation room.

Presentation at the Eurofisc Meeting

I presented the EMM Family of tools to the MS delegates of the Eurofisc meeting. The presentation covered the following topics:

- JRC's Mission and Background
- Live Demo of EMM Media Monitoring Suite
- Live Demo of EMM OSINT Suite
- Discussion how the tools can be used in tax administrations

The live demonstrations showed practical end user applications of the software tools, such as how to generate a newsletter from the NewsDesk editorial software.

In the short Q&A section a delegate of the Dutch tax administration noted, that they are already using the EMM OSINT Suite with success in their investigations.

Since the meeting was confidential, I had to leave the meeting after my presentation.

Presentation at the Finnish Prime Minister's Office

In the afternoon, I was invited to present our work at the Prime Minister's Office in Helsinki. Our contact ██████████ attended our EMM OSINT Workshop in November and had assembled around 20 participants from different national authorities, such as the prime minister's office, tax administration, national police, military and state security service.

The Finnish authorities are planning to create analytical capabilities in OSINT under the lead of the Prime Minister's office. Later, the Prime Minister's Office plans to make these new capabilities available to other national authorities.

My presentation covered the following agenda points:

- JRC's Mission and Background
- Live Demo of EMM Media Monitoring Suite
 - Category Editor
 - BigScreenMap application
- Live Demo of EMM OSINT Suite

We discussed especially the applications that are usable for a situation room, such as the BigScreenMap.

After the meeting the Finnish authorities expressed interest in using some of our tools but are currently still in an early stage of planning.

Follow-up Actions

- Give Finnish contacts access to EMM applications for further evaluation

² See Commission press release
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/resources/documents/2011-02-07_eurofisc_pressrelease_en.pdf