



Memorandum of Understanding

between the

Isle of Man
Financial Supervision Commission

and the

Czech
Securities Commission

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I INTRODUCTION

- I.1 The Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission ("IOMFSC") and the Czech Securities Commission ("CSC") wish to maintain a close and co-operative relationship. Both Authorities acknowledge the importance of compliance with the Basel Core Principles in prudential regulation of banking institutions, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations on Anti-Money Laundering, IOSCO's Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) Insurance Core Principles.
- I.2 The arrangements outlined below are intended to support effective working relationship, but they are not restrictive or legally binding. Both Authorities share the goal of promoting investor, depositor and policyholder protection and support the continuous development and innovation of regulations and supervision in financial products and activities within their respective financial markets.
- I.3 The IOMFSC was established under the Financial Supervision Commission Order of 1983 and its main functions include:-
- a) licensing and supervision of Banks under the Banking Act 1998;
 - b) licensing and supervision of Investment Businesses under the Investment Business Acts 1991 to 1993;
 - c) authorisation, recognition and supervision of Collective Investment Schemes under the Financial Supervision Act 1988;
 - d) authorisation and supervision of Building Societies pursuant to Sections 2 and 4(A) of the Building Societies Act 1986;
 - e) licensing and supervision of Corporate and Trust Service Providers under the Corporate Service Providers Act 2000; and
 - f) responsibility for the Companies Registry under the Companies (Transfer of Functions) Act 2000.

The IOMFSC's Mission Statement includes the following objectives:-

- a) to protect investors' and depositors' interests;
- b) to promote the financial stability of financial institutions;
- c) to promote the highest standards of competence and professional qualifications;
- d) to protect the integrity of the financial community;
- e) to protect the reputation of the Isle of Man.

1.4 The CSC was established under the Act on the Czech Securities Commission and its main functions include:-

- a) licensing and supervision of investment firms;
- b) licensing and supervision of investment companies and collective investment funds;
- c) licensing and supervision of securities exchanges, off-exchange markets and settlement systems;
- d) supervision over listed securities issuers with regard to their disclosure duty;
- e) supervision over activities of pension funds and insurance companies within the framework of their duties when investing in investment instruments and trading in investment instruments for own account;
- f) supervision over legally specified aspects of takeover bids.

The CSC's statutory objectives under the Act on the Czech Securities Commission include the following:-

- a) to enhance the confidence of investors and issuers of investment instruments in the capital market;
- b) to contribute to investor protection and the capital market development;
- c) to support education in this field.

2. DEFINITIONS

"Authorities" means the CSC and the IOMFSC;

"CSC" means the Czech Securities Commission;

"IOMFSC" means the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission;

"Issuer" means a person making an offer to the public or seeking listing of a security;

"Jurisdiction" means the country, state or other territory, as the case may be, in which the CSC or the IOMFSC have legal authority, power and/or jurisdiction by law;

"Licensed Entity" means any investment business, collective investment scheme or any other person acting within the scope of competence of the Authorities;

“Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) means a document which sets out the arrangements for both mutual co-operation and exchange of information between regulatory bodies;

“Person” means any natural person or legal person;

“Requested Authority” means the Authority to whom a request is made under this Memorandum of Understanding; and

“Requesting Authority” means the Authority that makes a request under this Memorandum of Understanding.

“Securities” means shares, bonds and other forms of securitized debts, futures and derivative products including commodity derivatives, units of undertakings in collective investment schemes and other financial products traded in the respective jurisdiction of the Authorities.

“Financial Markets” means any securities and derivatives market supervised by an Authority.

3. INTENTION

- 3.1 This Memorandum of Understanding sets forth a statement of intent of the Authorities to establish a framework for mutual assistance and to facilitate the exchange of information between the Authorities to enforce or secure compliance with laws or regulations of their respective jurisdictions.
- 3.2 The Authorities intend to provide one another with assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding to the full extent permitted by the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions. Assistance from one jurisdiction to the other will, to the extent permitted by law, not be limited to information concerning institutions authorised, licensed, registered or recognised in the Czech Republic and/or the Isle of Man.
- 3.3 This Memorandum of Understanding will serve to promote the integrity, efficiency and financial soundness of Licensed Entities by improving the effective regulation, enhancing the supervision of cross-border transactions, and creating an environment conducive to the prevention of fraudulent and other prohibited practices in the Isle of Man and the Czech Republic.

- 3.4 The Memorandum of Understanding does not create any binding legal obligations upon the Authorities.
- 3.5 The Authorities intend, where legal authorisation is lacking, to actively pursue all avenues towards obtaining, by law, all the necessary powers for the effective achievement of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding, and to keep each other informed of developments in connection therewith.
- 3.6 The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding do not grant the right to any person, directly or indirectly, to obtain, suppress or exclude any information or to challenge the execution of a request for assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.7 The Authorities will use reasonable efforts to provide each other with any information that they discover which leads to a suspicion of a breach or anticipated breach of rules or laws in the jurisdiction of the other Authority.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 The Authorities will provide each other with the fullest mutual assistance in any matters falling within the competence of the Authorities, including in particular the following areas:
- a) assisting in the discovery of and taking of action against unlicensed business or fraudulent or prohibited practices in relation to activities that the Authorities regulate;
 - b) investigations and enforcement in connection with applicable laws or regulations relating to insider dealing, market manipulation and other fraudulent or manipulative practices;
 - c) authorisation or licensing of entities within the scope of competence of the Authorities;
 - d) regulation and supervision of Licensed Entities;
 - e) promoting and securing the fit and proper qualities of directors, managers (including company secretaries and compliance officers) and controllers of Licensed Entities and the promotion of high standards of fair dealing and integrity of their conduct of business;
 - f) the supervision of Financial Markets, including the clearing and settlement, the monitoring and surveillance of OTC-transactions in securities listed on regulated markets;

- g) enforcing or monitoring compliance with applicable laws relating to the duties of issuers and offerors of securities in relation to the disclosure of information
- h) enforcing and monitoring compliance with applicable laws and regulations relating to the disclosure of interests in securities, takeover bids or the acquisition of influence over financial intermediaries;
- i) any matters agreed upon between the Authorities from time to time evidenced in writing.

4.2 Where the information may be maintained by, or available to, another authority within the country of the Requested Authority, the Authority will endeavour to provide full assistance in obtaining the information requested, to the extent permitted by law. If necessary, the Requested Authority will provide the Requesting Authority with sufficient information to establish direct contact with the other authority.

5. CONSOLIDATED SUPERVISION, MARKET AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The CSC and the IOMFSC will provide to the other information regarding the extent and nature of its consolidated supervision of any group of which a Licensed Entity is a member. In addition, the CSC and the IOMFSC will provide information concerning material changes or developments in their supervisory regimes. The CSC and the IOMFC will also regularly discuss market risks in their respective markets and other policy developments that might be relevant to each other.

6. INSPECTION AND ON-SITE VISITS

6.1 A Requesting Authority will give the Requested Authority advance notice of its intention to undertake an inspection visit in the Requested Authority's jurisdiction to a Licensed Entity, which is part of a group for which the Requesting Authority carries out consolidated supervision. The Requesting Authority will confirm, in advance, the nature and scope of the visit and the Requested Authority will afford as full co-operation as possible in facilitating such a visit.

In undertaking such a visit the Requesting Authority will invite officers of the Requested Authority to attend the visit and the Requested Authority may attend as it sees fit.

The main findings of inspection and on-site visits undertaken by one Authority to institutions in the other's jurisdiction, together with details of any action to be taken, to

which the visits findings have contributed, will be made available to the other Authority after the conclusion of the visit.

7. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION

- 7.1 This Memorandum of Understanding does not affect the ability of the Authorities to obtain information from persons in the other's jurisdiction on a voluntary basis, provided that the Authorities observe the procedures in that other jurisdiction for the obtaining of such information.
- 7.2 To facilitate communication and ensure continuity in the co-operation between the Authorities, each Authority will designate the contact officers set forth in Appendix A hereto for communications under this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 7.3 A Requesting Authority will make requests for assistance in writing addressed to the contact officer or officers of the Requested Authority.
- 7.4 To the extent available to the Requesting Authority, the request will include the following particulars:-
- a) description of the subject matter of the request and the purpose for which the information is sought and the reasons why this information will be of assistance;
 - b) the legal provisions or a brief description thereof concerning the matter that is the subject matter of the request;
 - c) a description of the specific information requested by the Requesting Authority;
 - d) any information in the possession of the Requesting Authority that might assist the Requested Authority in identifying the persons, bodies or entities believed by the Requesting Authority to possess the information sought, or the places where the Requested Authority may obtain such information, in particular:
 - i) in so far as the request concerns information relating to transactions in specific securities:
 - a full description of the securities in question (including e.g. the securities code),
 - the names of the firm/s involved in the transactions,
 - the dates between which transactions are considered relevant for the purposes of the request,
 - the names of any persons on whose behalf relevant transactions are believed or suspected to have been entered into;

- ii) in so far as the request relates to information concerning the business or activities of any person, such precise information as the Requesting Authority is able to provide so as to enable such persons to be identified;
- e) an indication of the sensitivity of the information contained in the request and whether the Requesting Authority is content for the fact that it has made the request to be disclosed to persons whom the Requested Authority may need to approach for information;
- f) whether the Requesting Authority is or has been in contact with any other authority or law enforcement agency in the State of the Requested Authority in relation to the subject matter of the request and whether any other Authority, governmental or non-governmental, is co-operating with the Requesting Authority or seeking information from the confidential files of the Requesting Authority and to whom onward disclosure of information is likely to be necessary;
- g) any other authority whom the Requesting Authority is aware has an active interest in the subject matter of the request;
- h) an indication of the urgency of the request, or the desired time period for reply.

7.5 In urgent circumstances, the Requested Authority will accept a request by means of communication other than the exchange of letters, and will expedite to the extent possible a reply thereto by summary procedures or by means of communication other than the exchange of letters. Such urgent communications will be confirmed in writing as prescribed above by the relevant contact person set out in Appendix A within five business days.

7.6 To the extent permitted by law, the Requested Authority will take all reasonable steps to obtain and provide the information sought.

8. UNSOLICITED INFORMATION

An Authority may provide, or arrange for the provision of, information that it believes will assist the other Authority in the performance of its regulatory functions, on a voluntary basis even though the other Authority has made no request. The terms and conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding will apply if the providing Authority specifies that it is passing the information under this Memorandum of Understanding.

9. PERMISSIBLE USES OF INFORMATION

- 9.1 Any assistance or information provided in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding should be used by the recipient only for the purpose of performing its regulatory and supervisory functions.
- 9.2 The Requesting Authority may not use information furnished for any purpose other than that identified in terms of paragraph 7.4 a).
- 9.3 If the Requesting Authority wants to use the information obtained for any purpose other than that stated in terms of paragraph 7.4 a), the Requesting Authority will seek and obtain the consent in writing of the Requested Authority prior to the use of such information.
- 9.4 Where the Requesting Authority believes that sharing confidential information with a third party is necessary, it will inform the Requested Authority of the third party's interest in this information and it must provide the Requested Authority with the opportunity to oppose such use.
- 9.5 The Requesting Authority may consult with the Requested Authority concerning the reasons for the objection if the Requested Authority opposes such use.
- 9.6 Where unsolicited information is supplied, the Authority will use this information solely for the purposes stated in the transmission letter or for the purposes of criminal or administrative proceedings or for the discharge of the obligation to report to judicial authorities.

10. CRISIS SITUATIONS

Where there is a need for urgent action by either Authority, in view of exceptional circumstances affecting a Licensed Entity, including financial distress, the CSC and the IOMFSC will inform the other of such information as is deemed appropriate in the particular circumstances, taking into account all relevant factors.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.1 The Authorities will, to the full extent permitted by the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions, keep confidential:-
 - a) any request for assistance or information pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - b) any information received pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding; and

- c) any matter arising during the operation of this Memorandum of Understanding, including consultations and unsolicited assistance.
- 11.2 The Requesting Authority will not disclose the assistance or information obtained pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding to third parties without the prior written consent of the Requested Authority and compliance with the provisions of paragraph 9.
- 11.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 9 (9.1, 9.2, 9.3), the confidentiality provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding will not prevent the Authority from informing the law enforcement bodies in its jurisdiction when disclosure is required pursuant to a legally enforceable demand.
- 11.4 If the Requesting Authority becomes aware that information passed to it under this Memorandum of Understanding may be subject to a legally enforceable demand to disclose it will, to the extent permitted by laws, regulations and rules of its jurisdiction, inform the Requested Authority of that demand. The Authorities will then consult on the appropriate course of action.
- 11.5 The Authorities' obligation to retain the confidential treatment of assistance and information will continue when either Authority gives notice of its intent to cease co-operation under this Memorandum of Understanding. The Authorities understand that the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions place limitations on use and disclosure of non-public information obtained pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

12. RIGHTS OF REQUESTED AUTHORITY

- 12.1 The Requested Authority may deny requests for assistance:-
- a) where the request would require the Requested Authority to act in a way that would violate the laws of the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority;
 - b) where the request is not in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding;
 - c) where judicial proceedings for the imposition of criminal penalties have already been initiated or criminal investigation is already underway;

- d) where final judgment has already been passed or sanctions have already been applied by the competent Authorities, in the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority, in respect of the same actions and against the same persons; or
 - e) on grounds of public interest, national security or essential national interest.
- 12.2 Where the Requested Authority denies or opposes a request for assistance, or where assistance is not available under the law of the jurisdiction of the Requested Authority, the Requested Authority will provide the reasons why it is not granting the assistance. The Authorities will then consult pursuant to Section 13.
- 12.3 The Authorities recognise that this present Memorandum of Understanding should not be considered as limiting or enhancing the powers of the Authorities under the laws of their respective jurisdictions to investigate or gather information or to take measures otherwise than as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding to obtain information, whether or not concerning a request under the Memorandum of Understanding.

13. CONSULTATION

- 13.1 The Authorities will consult with each other on an on-going basis to enhance regulatory co-operation between them and to improve the operation of the Memorandum of Understanding and to strive to resolve any matters that may arise, including but not limited to:-
- a) matters of mutual interest to enhance co-operation and to protect depositors and investors by ensuring the stability, efficiency, and integrity of the financial services industry in their respective jurisdictions;
 - b) the co-ordination of the supervision of Licensed Entities and Markets; and
 - c) the administration of the laws, regulations and rules of their respective jurisdictions.

The purpose of such consultations is to assist in the development of mutually agreeable approaches for strengthening the financial services industries of their respective jurisdictions whilst avoiding, whenever possible, conflicts that may arise from the application of differing regulatory practices.

- 13.2 The Authorities will inform one another of the adoption of domestic measures that may affect their respective Authority's ability to provide assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding.

- 13.3 The Authorities may take practical measures as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. As such, the Authorities may amend, relax or waive any of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

14. COSTS OF INVESTIGATION

If it appears that the Requested Authority may incur substantial costs in responding to a request for assistance under this Memorandum of Understanding, the Authorities will consult with a view to establishing an appropriate and equitable cost-sharing arrangement before proceeding with such a request for assistance.

15. LISTS OF LICENSED ENTITIES

The Authorities will exchange lists of Licensed Entities in their jurisdictions at the date of signing of this Memorandum of Understanding. Such lists will be updated and exchanged at the half-year dates following. Where an Authority has such lists on its website and these are kept up-to-date this will satisfy the initial and ongoing requirement.

16. ISLE OF MAN TEMPORARY BUSINESS CONTINUITY EXEMPTION REGULATIONS

- 16.1 CSC agrees to act as a “relevant regulator” for the purposes of the Isle of Man Investment Business (Exemptions) (Temporary Business Continuity Operations) Regulations 2002 in relation to activities constituting investment business as defined under Section 1 of the Isle of Man Investment Business Act 1991.
- 16.2 The IOMFSC will advise CSC:-
- (a) as soon as possible after the receipt of any written notification from an Exempt Person (as defined in the Regulations) that the Exempt Person has entered into a binding agreement for the provision of temporary business continuity services;
 - (b) as soon as possible after the receipt of any written confirmation of the invocation of temporary business continuity arrangements following a relevant event (as defined in the Regulations); and
 - (c) in any other circumstances as agreed from time to time by the IOMFSC and CSC or as considered appropriate on a case by case basis.
- 16.3 CSC agrees to provide written notification to the IOMFSC :-

- (a) if an Exempt Person ceases to be regulated;
- (b) if, following a relevant event, the relevant regulator is unable to continue to exercise its regulatory functions in relation to the Exempt Person; and
- (c) in any other circumstances as agreed from time to time by the IOMFSC and CSC or as considered appropriate on a case by case basis.

17. TERMINATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding will continue in effect for an indefinite period but will terminate upon the expiration of thirty days after either Authority gives written notice to the other Authority of its intention to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding. If either Authority gives such notice, this Memorandum of Understanding will continue to have effect with respect to all requests for assistance that either Authority had made before the effective date of notification until the Requesting Authority terminates the matter for which it requested assistance.

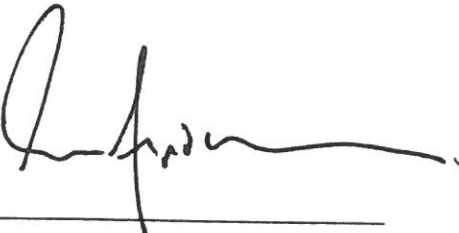
18. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Memorandum of Understanding will be effective from the date of its signing by the Authorities.

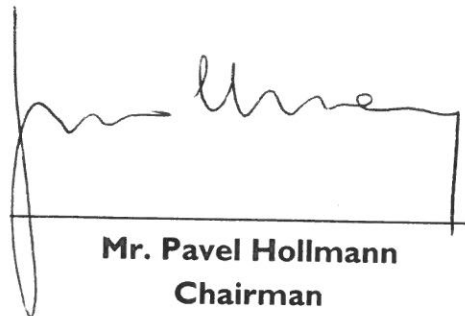
SIGNED on this 2 day of December 2005

**FOR THE
ISLE OF MAN FINANCIAL
SUPERVISION COMMISSION**

**FOR THE
CZECH SECURITIES COMMISSION**



**Mr. John R Aspden
Chief Executive**



**Mr. Pavel Hollmann
Chairman**

APPENDIX A

DESIGNATED CONTACT OFFICERS

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