

Securities Commission of The Bahamas

3RD Floor, Charlotte House
Shirley & Charlotte Streets
P.O. Box N – 8347
Nassau, Bahamas

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Mr. Dave S. Smith
Executive Director
242- 397-4100

FOR RELEASE ON OR AFTER 22 JULY 2013

Securities Commission of The Bahamas Signs MOUs with European Regulators

The Securities Commission of The Bahamas (the Commission) announced today that it has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with counterpart securities regulators in the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA).

The bi-lateral agreements will allow Bahamas based fund managers to continue to market or perform fund management activities for alternative investment funds (AIFs) in EU and EEA markets. AIFs include hedge funds, private equity funds, real estate funds and other types of institutional funds.

The MOUs set standards for co-operation and cross-border supervision, making the supervision of alternative funds more consistent globally and strengthening investor protection.

The European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA) negotiated on behalf of EU and EEA members. The agreements were signed on behalf of the Commission by its Chairman, Tonya Bastian Galanis.

The Commission's Executive Director Dave Shannon Smith said, "Entering these agreements marks another significant step taken by the Commission to be responsive to international developments in delivering on its mandate under the Securities Industry Act, 2011 to promote conditions that facilitate the orderly development of the capital markets.

"Not only do these agreements allow for Bahamas-based alternative fund managers to access the European markets represented by the regulators the Commission signed with, but they allow the Commission to demonstrate to audiences local and abroad its commitment to maintaining international best practices in regulation and the protection of investors globally. It augurs well for the jurisdiction's funds industry and the broader financial services industry as well."

The Securities Commission of The Bahamas ("the Commission") is a statutory body established in 1995 pursuant to the Securities Board Act, 1995. That Act has since been repealed and replaced by new legislation. The Commission's mandate is now defined in the Securities Industry Act, 2011 (SIA, 2011). The Commission is responsible for the administration of the SIA, 2011 and the Investment Funds Act, 2003 (the IFA), which provides for the supervision and regulation of the activities of the investment funds, securities and capital markets. The Commission, having been appointed Inspector of Financial and Corporate Services effective 1 January 2008, is also responsible for administering the Financial and Corporate Service Providers Act, 2000.

The Commission is mandated to: advise the Minister on all matters relating to the capital markets and its participants; maintain surveillance over the capital markets and ensure orderly, fair and equitable dealings in securities; foster timely, accurate, fair and efficient disclosure of information to the investing public and the capital markets; protect the integrity of the capital markets against any abuses arising from financial crime, market misconduct and other unfair and improper practices; promote an understanding by the public of the capital markets and its participants and the benefits, risks, and liabilities associated with investing; create and promote conditions that facilitate the orderly development of the capital markets; and perform any other function conferred or imposed on it by securities laws or Parliament.