

Special Investigation Commission Circular 15

Addressed to Banks and Financial Institutions

Pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 318 of April 20, 2001 on Fighting Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, particularly Paragraph 4 of Article 6 and Paragraph 1 of Article 7, thereof,

Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraphs 1 and 6 of Article 12, of the Regulations on the Control of Financial and Banking Operations for Fighting Money Laundering attached to Basic Decision No. 7818 of May 18, 2001,

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 181 of the Code of Obligations and Contracts concerning the conditions for refraining from entering into a contract and there sulting liability,

Without prejudice to depositors and customers' rights and interests in case the provisions of SIC Circular No. 8 are not implemented, and

Pursuant to the Decision taken by the SIC in its meeting of May 20, 2014,

We remind banks and financial institutions of the need to strictly implement the provisions of SIC Circular No. 8 of November 7, 2006, particularly in what follows:

- To ascertain that all their staff and employees comply with the obligation to refrain from disclosing to a customer any information about SIC actions related to the customer's accounts, whether in the form of enquiry, auditing or temporary freeze.
- To take constantly into consideration that SIC enquiries and audits do not prevent banks and financial institutions from normally dealing or continuing to deal with customers, as long as the SIC does not decide the contrary.

Any bank or financial institution that violates the provisions of this Circular shall incur the administrative penalties that the Higher Banking Commission may impose in accordance with Article 208 of the Code of Money and Credit. These penalties shall not preclude the enforcement of penal sanctions and civil liability against the violating entity.

Beirut, May 26, 2014

The Governor of the Banque du Liban

Chairman of the Special Investigation Commission

Riad Toufic Salamé