

# The WorldECR Forum 2014

**W**hoops – we did it again! On 15 and 16th October we held our second ever Forum on Export Controls and Sanctions – again in London, this time at the former Royal Mint buildings close to Tower Bridge.

Reflecting the fact that nothing stays the same under the sun, we had a new line-up of presenters and panel discussions taking on a pantheon of export control and sanctions-related topics – and generating heated conversation and contact-making in the caffeine and pastry-fuelled break-out sessions.

Appropriately, given the importance that the Wassenaar Arrangement has for the working lives of so many in the export control and sanctions field, head of the Wassenaar Secretariat Ambassador Philip Griffiths opened the proceedings with a reminder as to the role of the Arrangement, the limitations within which it operates, and recent developments.

Amongst the following speakers, White & Case's Fabienne Vermeeren looked at the prospects for the reform of the EU dual-use system, highlighting

current causes of dissatisfaction among users and some of the difficulties that will lie in store for policy-makers as they strive to address them.

Marian Niestedt of Graf von Westphalen in Hamburg talked the conference through developments in the past year in the sphere of EU sanctions – of course, dominated by the restrictive

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measures relating to the crisis in Ukraine. The sanctions, he said, had had a very dampening effect on trade between the EU and Russia – but he ended on an upnote, encouraging companies 'not to be afraid of permitted business with Russian companies since the goods and service-related sanctions are limited to certain sectors or persons; person-related sanctions are included in

screening in any event; and there is no liability if a person or entity had no reasonable cause to suspect that its action would infringe Regulation (EU) No. 833/2014.'

In the afternoon, Latham & Watkins' Les Carnegie took the Russia baton across the Atlantic and gave a run-down of what the U.S. sanctions mean for businesses on both sides of 'the Pond' and beyond. Post-presentation discussion revealed general consensus that it is unclear as to what, ultimately, would precipitate a ramping down of the current sanctions regime (...with increasing signs of East-West bellicosity, that prospect doesn't look imminent).

Russia may have eclipsed Iran in terms of urgency, but the Islamic Republic was certainly on the table: Mark Fitzpatrick of the IISS outlined what he considered to be the motivators driving the parties negotiating the P5+1/Iran deal. Is such a deal possible? A difficult call, he concluded with both strong push and pull factors being brought to bear. Also taking the deep view, Fried Frank's Mario Mancuso



Mark Fitzpatrick of IISS shared his expert knowledge on the current sanctions environment



Stacey Winters of Deloitte led a lively discussion on the challenges in classification



WorldECR editorial board member, George Tan gave an updated on export controls in ASEAN



Hon. Mario Mancuso of Fried Frank offered delegates the benefits of his experience and political insight in his presentation on economic statecraft





The sessions were both informative and entertaining



Raphael Barazza, who presented on the tricky matter of encryption controls in France



WorldECR editor, Tom Blass



Ian Stewart (left) and David Lowrie (centre) of the Alpha Project



Fabienne Vermeeren and Sara Nordin stay focused on the subject



Marian Niestedt of Graf von Westphalen



A welcome cup of tea at the end of a tough session



Joe Gustavus of Miller Canfield flew in from Troy, Michigan, to speak at the event



David Lowrie, Kevin Cuddy and Allison Porcella enjoy the classification panel discussion

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Charles Barber of Kuehne + Nagel shared his experience in supply chain management



A round of applause for a good presentation



Delegates discover the fun in classifying items for export



Gretchen Hund and Alexis Massot



Latham's Les Carnegie took on U.S. sanctions



George Tan and Frieda Huang



All smiles at the end of a long first day

provided valuable contextual background by outlining how, some time after 9/11, the U.S. administration accelerated the development of its tools of 'economic statecraft' – hence the employment of the 'smart sanctions' that we see today.

In addition to the presentations, we enjoyed panel discussions on ICPs, supply chain compliance issues, challenges faced by the aviation, aerospace and defence industries and product classification issues. With panellists from organisations including GE, Boeing, Ruag, Pratt & Whitney, Kuehne + Nagel, a U.S. national laboratory and Deloitte, the panels provided a fascinating insight into how different kinds of organisation respond to compliance challenges, adapting their

approach contingent on size, jurisdiction and industry.

We can't do justice to two days of high-level, wide-ranging and international presentations in a few hundred words: If you did attend, you

should have received a conference report, contact details of fellow delegates and speakers, and a copy of the presentation slides. If you didn't attend, we hope that we will see you next year for the 2015 Forum.

WorldECR thanks the sponsors of this year's Forum for their part in making it happen.

