



PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, 05/02/2023

Primus Trust Asset Management Zrt categorically rejects the claim of the Hungarian National Bank that it would carry out any activity subject to a license without the appropriate license. At the same time, we are puzzled by the unprecedented mega fine imposed by the MNB on a service provider that, even by MNB's own admission, did not gain any financial advantage from the allegedly unauthorized lending activity.

On the other hand, we declare that we only carry out fiduciary activities that fully comply with the relevant legal requirements, have the necessary permits, and use all available legal tools to protect the legitimate interests of our clients.

Based on all of this, we categorically reject any suspicions, insinuations, claims, statements that may arise in an official form, which suggests that we would carry out any activity subject to a license without the appropriate licenses. Primus Trust Zrt. carries out fiduciary asset management activities on the basis of a license issued by the Hungarian National Bank that is being renewed annually and is in full compliance with all legal requirements.

According to our firm legal position, the Hungarian National Bank failed to take into account not only the legal regulations on fiduciary asset management, but also the content of our license in its procedure and decision, or fundamentally misinterpreted them. The provision of loans from the trusts to beneficiaries (which the Hungarian National Bank mostly objected to) is covered by the business-like fiduciary asset management license, since the disbursement of a loan to the beneficiary is directly related to the fulfillment of the fiduciary asset management obligation.

The loans granted to the beneficiaries were disbursed as an activity directly related to the fulfillment of our obligation arising from the fiduciary asset management relationship for the benefit of the beneficiaries, while considering their primary interests, since it is the primary interest of the beneficiaries to obtain liquidity from the managed assets if necessary. In addition, these loans were provided in each case with individually determined conditions and exclusively to persons connected in some way to the assets under management, i.e. they do not pose any danger or risk to the integrity of the Hungarian financial market.



We wish to confirm that in all cases we carry out our fiduciary asset management activities in accordance with the governing legislation. Our managing partners actively contributed to the creation of the Hungarian rules for fiduciary asset management (trust), the naturalization of the legal institution in Hungary, and its theoretical and practical development, so we are fully aware of its content and spirit, as well as the fact that the legal institution is still immature at the level of law enforcement, which in turn would also require greater caution and preparation on the part of the acting authority.

In its announcement, the Hungarian National Bank mentions – certainly not without purpose – that it is currently investigating our company's compliance with anti-money laundering and terrorist financing legislation. In this context, we consider it important to state that we are committed to fully complying with the domestic and international regulations aimed at preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in our operations. The investigation in this direction has been ongoing since February 2021, and Primus Trust Zrt., as it has done so far, will continue to cooperate in everything with the specialized authority conducting the investigation.

For Primus Trust Corp., the primary goal is the maximum protection of the interests of its customers, which is based on our compliance with the legal regulations governing our activities. In all cases, we cooperate with the bodies that supervise our work, and we support fair and legally based investigation. We believe that it is in our and our clients' interest to comply with the legal requirements in all respects, together with the supervisory bodies. At the same time, we must draw attention to the legally unbiased official measures that seriously threaten the interests of our customers and, last but not least, our own existence. Taking this into account, we will appeal to the Hungarian National Bank within a few days with the request that it immediately withdraw its unfounded decision, which we consider illegal, and conduct a well-founded and careful evidentiary procedure. If this is not possible, as we have no other option, we will challenge this decision in court.

Primus Trust Fiduciary Asset Management Corp.