
Fwd: to the attention of Antonio Velardo

16 messages

Real Caribe Investments <invest@realcaribe.net>
To: Eddy De Oleo <eddy@realcaribe.net>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 1:45 PM

Antonio Velardo
Business Developer Manager
00393881228077
www.realcaribe.net

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **IrpiMedia - Investigative Reporting Project Italy** <info@irpi.eu>
Date: Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:51 AM
Subject: Re: to the attention of Antonio Velardo
To: Real Caribe Investments <invest@realcaribe.net>

Dear Mr Antonio Velardo,

We are a group of investigative journalists from IrpiMedia (IM), Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and Miami Herald (MH).

We are approaching you because IM, MH, SZ and OCCRP in collaboration with other media outlets, including Mena, Le Monde and others are working on an investigation about some of your activities. We have received credible information that you, or a company in which you held ownership or authority to act, have held accounts at Credit Suisse (or banks that later merged with Credit Suisse). As fair and responsible journalists working in the public interest, we would like to give you the opportunity to comment upon or amend our information.

We understand that having a Swiss bank account is per se not evidence of wrongdoing or criminality. But we have closely examined the information and we have identified relevant information for public interest, especially in regards to the due diligence obligations of financial institutions. Below we have gathered important questions that we hope you will answer by our deadline of February 8, 2022 (we had tried to contact you already last week but with no success and unfortunately we need a reply soon). **We are happy to receive your reply in Italian if you prefer, and have Italian reporters talking to you directly if you reckon it to be best.**

We understand that:

- 1) You opened three Credit Suisse accounts: CIF 007704798878; CIF 007709963842; CIF 007707190951
- 2) In 2011 the accounts were respectively 1.4 million EURO; 1.2 million EURO and 25,000 EURO.

We would like to ask you the following questions:

- 3) What is the current status of these accounts? Do they remain open or closed?
- 4) Have these accounts been declared to the tax authorities in Italy or Tunisia, or any other tax authority?
- 5) In a wiretap relating to Operation Black Money, you were overheard saying the General of the Guardia di Finanza could "suck it up", because from that moment onwards you were Tunisian. Do you hold Tunisian citizenship? Have you ever benefited from a working visa in Tunisia?
- 5) What is the source of the funds on the above three accounts? Are they related to the sales of apartments in the Jewel of the Sea development in Calabria?
- 6) Were funds from these accounts directly or indirectly used to purchase properties in Florida?
- 7) In 2009 you told EOS Servizi Finanziari Spa to administer your financial assets by applying to the "tax shield" approved in August of that year. However, on Dec. 6, 2011 the government added an 1.5% tax on all assets recovered via the tax shield. Authorities believe you later instructed EOS to move some of your assets, including a foreign trust

totalling one million euros sent to two separate accounts in Switzerland, at Julius Baer & CO S.A. bank. Did you later move any of this money to Credit Suisse?

8) VFI Tunisia was created in 2008 in Hammamet, and the office was located at the Solaria Hotel building in Yasmine Hammamet. Do you own that hotel?

9) Apax Consulting was created in Tunisia in May 2010, and located in Menzah, Tunis. According to Tunisian registry documents, Apax Consulting is still active. Would you like to comment on that?

10) According to Tunisian registry documents LTB Consulting, a company created in Tunisia by Francesco L'Abbate, was located at the same address as VFI Tunisia. The company was used to buy properties in Florida. Is this a business you were involved in with your associate L'Abbate?

11) In regard to the Jewel of the Sea, are you aware of how many of your clients never obtained a flat, despite paying for such flats? Have you ever paid back any damages?

12) How much did you personally profit from the Jewel of the Sea?

13) You were acquitted in Reggio Calabria of the charge of money laundering and favouring the 'Ndrangheta, but convicted in Catanzaro (and then cleared in appeal for the trial exceeding the statute of limitation). Did you suspect that Antonio Cuppari was a member of the 'Ndrangheta? Have you ever clashed with the Morabito clan, or have they ever threatened you? If so, were you helped in this dispute by Antonio Maccarone?

14) Are you still in touch and working with Antonio Maccarone, since you are apparently the godfather of his son?

15) Today you are chairman of Real Capital Caribe and American Wise Investments. What does this position mean in practice? What is your business relationship with Antonio Naddeo? Do you run the companies Rapidloan Investment Group and Embryotech? How are the companies contributing to Real Capital Caribe group?

16) Was Antonio Naddeo your banking advisor while you were investing in the Jewel of the Sea?

17) Are Francesco L'Abbate, Domenico Musarella and Francesco Colacino still working for you?

18) Are you still working with Henry "Harry" Fitzsimons? Are you aware of the fact he is a convicted IRA bomber? Can you tell us more about how you two met in Cape Verde, and why you were there at that time?

OCCRP, SZ and its media partners intend to publish the results of this investigation in Italy, Germany, the United States, United Kingdom and other countries. If we do not hear from you by close of business, 6 pm Central European Time on February 8, 2022 (preferably by email to info@irpi.eu, bastian.obermayer@sz.de, frederik.obermaier@sz.de, Dan.kelly@occrp.org and bwieder@mcclatchydc.com), we shall proceed on the basis that you do not wish to comment on, amend or otherwise respond to our information. **We are happy to receive your reply in Italian if you prefer, and have Italian reporters talking to you directly if you reckon it to be best.**

Yours sincerely,

OCCRP, Süddeutsche Zeitung, IrpiMedia & Miami Herald



Sender notified by
Mailtrack

Il giorno ven 4 feb 2022 alle ore 19:00 Real Caribe Investments <invest@realcaribe.net> ha scritto:

***Please send the questions here we will forward to him .
Regards***

On Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 12:37 PM IrpiMedia - Investigative Reporting Project Italy <info@irpi.eu> wrote:

To whom it might concern,
we are a group of journalists from different media outlets and we are trying to get in touch with Mr. Antonio Velardo, this is an urgent matter.

Could you please provide a personal email account for Mr. Velardo where we could send him questions?

Kind regards