

Beat: Business

Civil Guard enters the Madrid headquarters of Banco Santander for information

On alleged tax fraudsters

Madrid, 03.06.2016, 17:37 Time

USPA NEWS - The Spanish Civil Guard on Friday visited the headquarters of Banco Santander in Madrid, looking for information on 40 clients listed in the Falciani list as alleged fraudsters to the Treasury. Banco Santander reported that the company is willing to cooperate with the Civil Guard.

The Spanish Ministry of Home Affairs clarified that there is not a police operation ordered by any court but part of an ongoing investigation on the Falciani list, who discovered alleged tax fraudsters. In this case it is 40 people and family groups with a common denominator: they are listed in the Falciani list and have accounts at Banco Santander linked to HSBC. Initiated by the National Court, the investigation has moved to courts in the cities where they lived alleged fraudsters in June 2008. This means, 12 of the 17 Spanish autonomous regions.

According to researchers, there is no connection between the accounts required at Banco Santander. The only similarity is that all correspond to depositors funds in Swiss bank HSBC. All of them are being investigated for an alleged crime against the Treasury and other money laundering, but the Civil Guard also is investigating whether Banco Santander managed illicit money from their customers and if he was aware of bleaching.

The investigation was launched at the request of the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor, following the publication of printed documents and computer support provided by Hervé Daniel Marcel Falciani, a former employee of HSBC Private Bank Suisse, involving 600 account holders residing in Spain, for a total amount close to 6,000 million euros (6,692.40 US Dollars). Sources of Banco Santander reported Friday that the company is willing to cooperate with the Civil Guard in investigating this case and noted that the agents provided all the required information, so it was not necessary to register the bank's headquarters.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-8185/civil-guard-enters-the-madrid-headquarters-of-banco-santander-for-information.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSiV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Jose A. Martin

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619