

INVESTOR WARNING

The Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission would like to draw the attention of the investing public to the warning of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) regarding the pitfalls of online investing.

Key messages

- Be aware of the potential risks involved in online investing.
- Check if the firm is authorised.
- Be wary of promises of high returns.
- Be aware of software that automatically generates transactions for you.
- Take special care when you're asked to provide your credit card details.
- If you do not understand what's on offer, do not invest.

Remember that according to the risk-return trade-off, when expected returns are high, investment risks are also high.

Should you realize or have substantial suspicion that you may be about to or have already been transacting with an unauthorised firm established in Cyprus, save or print all relevant information and file a complaint with the Cyprus Securities & Exchange Commission, using the following online complaint forms:

- [Complaint Form regarding non-regulated Investment Firms \(IFs\)](#)
- [Complaint Form regarding Cyprus Investment Firms \(CIFs\)](#)

For more information, please note that this warning is available in English at the following link:

http://www.esma.europa.eu/system/files/investor_warning.pdf

Nicosia, 12th September 2012

Notes for editors

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) is an independent European Union (EU) Authority that was established on 1 January 2011 and works closely with the other European Supervisory Authorities responsible for banking (EBA), and insurance and occupational pensions (EIOPA). ESMA's mission is to enhance the protection of investors and promote stable and well-functioning financial markets in the EU. As an independent institution, ESMA achieves this aim by building a single rule book for EU financial markets and ensuring its consistent application across the EU. ESMA contributes to the regulation of financial services firms with a pan-European reach, either through direct supervision or through the active co-ordination of national supervisory activity.