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**TO** : Issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market

**FROM** : Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission

**DATE** : 17 July 2020

**CIRCULAR NO.** : C400

**SUBJECT** : ESMA Public Statement - Implications of the COVID-19 outbreak on the half-yearly financial reports

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The Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission ('CySEC') wishes to draw the attention of issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on the Cyprus Stock Exchange or on other regulated market (the 'issuers'), to the [Public Statement](#) issued by the European Securities and Markets Authority ('ESMA'), with reference number ESMA32-63-972 and subject 'Implications of the COVID-19 outbreak on the half-yearly financial reports'.

The scope of the Public Statement is to promote transparency and consistent application of European requirements for the information provided in the half-yearly financial reports under the current circumstances related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In particular, the Public Statement addresses the preparation of the interim financial statements and the interim management reports for the 2020 half-yearly reporting periods. It highlights the need for issuers to provide updated information that is useful to investors to adequately reflect the current and expected impact of the COVID-19 situation on the financial position, performance and cash-flows of issuers. ESMA also highlights the importance of providing information on the principal risks and uncertainties to which issuers are exposed. It is also noted that the considerations in the Public Statement are also applicable to the reporting of financial information in other interim periods to which IAS 34 - Interim Financial Reporting is applied.

ESMA calls on the management, administrative and supervisory bodies, including audit committees, of issuers and, where applicable, their auditors, in light of their different responsibilities in the process for the preparation of periodic financial information, to take due consideration of the recommendations included in the Public Statement when preparing the interim financial reports in order to ensure that they provide comparable, relevant and reliable information and an adequate level of disclosure and transparency to market participants. Given the complexities of the current environment, ESMA encourages audit committees to enhance their oversight role which is key to contribute to high-quality half-yearly financial reports.

CySEC calls on issuers to take into due consideration of the recommendations refer to in the Public Statement when preparing the half-yearly Financial Reports for the first six months of the financial year 2020 as well as other interim financial reports during 2020.

Sincerely,

Demetra Kalogerou  
Chairman Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission