

## **PRESS RELEASE** <u>Abusive financial services: Consob blacks out 5 websites</u>

Consob has ordered the black-out of **5** new websites, which illegally offer financial services.

The Authority made use of the powers deriving from the "Growth Decree" ('Decreto crescita', Law no. 58 of 28 June 2019, Article no. 36, paragraph 2-*terdecies*), according to which Consob can order Internet connectivity service providers to prohibit access from Italy to the websites through which financial services are offered without due authorization.

The websites for which Consob has ordered the blackout are listed below:

- "SMART FX" (website www.smartforex.site);
- Warp Enterprise Ltd (website www.firstfinancialbanc.com);
- "Pro Consulting Invest" (website www.proconsultinginvest.com);
- "Gntfin LTD" (website www.gntfin.com);
- "Global Finance FX" (website www.fxglobalfinance.com);

Thus, it has risen to **223** the total number of websites blacked out by Consob since July 2019, when the Authority got the power to order that the websites of fraudulent financial intermediaries be blacked out.

The measures adopted by Consob are available on the website <u>www.consob.it</u>.

The black-out of these websites by Internet service providers operating on Italian territory is ongoing. For technical reasons, it can take several days for the black-out to come into effect.

Consob draws investors' attention to the importance of adopting the greatest diligence in order to make informed investment choices, adopting common sense behaviours, essential to safeguard their savings: these include, for websites that offer financial services, checking in advance that the operator with whom they are investing is authorized and, in reference to offers of financial services, that a prospectus has been published.

To this end, Consob reminds you that there is a section on the homepage of its website <u>www.consob.it</u> entitled "<u>Watch for scams</u>!" providing useful information to warn investors against financially abusive initiatives.

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