

## PRESS RELEASE

### *Watch for Scams!*

#### *Abusive financial services: Consob blacks out 6 abusive websites*

Consob ordered the blocking of **six** websites that illegally offered financial services or promoted advertising campaigns for unauthorized trading platforms.

Among the blocked sites, <https://paladinoselegancia.com>, through which an advertising campaign was carried out concerning an abusive brokerage platform, including through the improper reference to public figures, such as journalist Sigfrido Ranucci, host of *Report* on *RaiTre*. The other **five** blocked sites on which the Authority intervened were illegally offering financial intermediation services.

Consob draws investors' attention to the evolution of fraudulent practices that exploit the *internet* and social media to steal users' money and personal data. Today, fraudulent operators use sophisticated tools, such as cloned messages and *websites*, fake profiles of famous people, and content generated by artificial intelligence systems - such as images, voices, or videos - with the aim of luring investors into a trap.

Below are the websites Consob has ordered to be blacked out:

- “**Mrx Capital Trading**” (*website* <https://mrxcapitaltrading.co> and related page <https://trading-area.mrxwebtrading.co>);
- “**FtseWebTrader**” (*website* [www.ftsetradeai.com](http://www.ftsetradeai.com) and related pages <https://client.ftsetradeai.com> and <https://webtrader.ftsetradeai.com>);
- “**Aurora Trade Limited**” (*website* <https://aurora-trade.io> and related page <https://cfd.aurora-trade.io>);
- “**Horizon Options247**” (*website* <https://horizonoption247.com>);
- “**Aitrade24**” (*website* <https://aitrade24.net> and related page <https://webtrader.aitrade24.net>);
- “**<https://paladinoselegancia.com> - Bitplex.**”

The number of websites blacked out since July 2019, when Consob got the power to order that the websites of fraudulent financial intermediaries be blacked out, has thus risen to **1496**.

Consob reiterates the importance of exercising the utmost diligence in order to make fully informed investment choices, calling on investors to adopt common sense behaviors that are essential for safeguarding their savings: these include checking in advance, for websites offering financial services and crypto-assets, that the operator through which you are investing is

authorized and, for offers of financial products and crypto-assets, that the prospectus or *white paper* has been published. The website [www.consob.it](http://www.consob.it) has a section on its homepage entitled “[Watch for Scams!](#)”, which provides useful information to warn investors against abusive financial initiatives.

Consob availed itself of the powers deriving from the “*Decreto crescita*” (“Growth Decree” Law no. 58 of 28 June 2019, Article no. 36, paragraph 2-*terdecies*), relating to the black-out of the sites of abusive financial intermediaries, as well as the powers introduced by the “*Legge Capitali*” (“Capital Law”, Law No. 21 of March 5, 2024) regarding the blocking of websites used to carry out advertising campaigns for illegal brokerage platforms. The measures adopted by Consob can be consulted on the website [www.consob.it](http://www.consob.it).

Internet service providers operating in Italy are currently blocking access to the websites. For technical reasons, it may take a few days for the block to take effect.

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