

PRESS RELEASE

Watch for Scams!

Abusive financial services: websites blocked by Consob reach 1,000

Four and a half years of commitment to the protection of savers

The threshold touched after the latest blackout of 5 websites offering financial products without due authorization

It reaches 1,000 the number of websites that Consob, to protect savers, has blocked for financial abuse in Italy. A historic threshold, reached in just over four years of commitment, after in the latest "squeeze" Consob ordered the blackout of five new websites, offering financial services without the proper authorization.

The latest round of blackouts included the sites "**Bitblanco**" (*website* www.bitblanco.co and related page <https://webtrader.bitblanco.co>); "**StormInvest**" (*website* <https://storminvest.io>); "**Cryptogo365 Ltd**" (*website* <https://cryptogo365.com>); "**TCRinvest**" (*website* <https://tcrinvest.com> and related page <https://trading.tcrinvest.com>); and "**EuroXTradeFX**" (*website* www.euroxtradefx.com).

The number of websites that have been blacked-out, thus, reaches the round figure of 1,000, which results by the addition of the measures taken since July 2019, when the "*Decreto crescita*" ("Growth Decree", Law No. 58 of 28 June 2019, Article No. 36, paragraph 2-terdecies) gave Consob the power to order Internet connectivity service providers to inhibit access, from Italy, to websites through which financial services are offered without proper authorization.

With regard to the last five websites blocked by Consob, the activities for the blacking-out of websites by Internet connectivity providers operating in Italy are 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 behaviors, 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, for offers of financial products, that a prospectus has been published.

To this end, Consob would remind you that on the website www.consob.it there is a section on the homepage, "Watch for Scams!", providing useful information to warn investors against financially abusive initiatives.

The measures adopted by Consob can be consulted at www.consob.it .

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