

The Autorité des Marchés Financiers calls for extreme vigilance regarding non-standard investments proposed to the public

The AMF issues a warning to the public about non-standard investments proposed to investors in sectors as diverse as letters and manuscripts, works of art, solar panels, stamps, wine, diamonds or other niche markets. The AMF reminds investors that these sectors are not governed by the regulations that protect financial instruments. Among other things, this means that the commercial documents issued by companies are not examined by the AMF.

Due to the current low interest rates, investors are increasingly being encouraged to invest in products other than traditional financial instruments.

The AMF has observed the development of offerings from companies who propose investments with apparently attractive returns in sectors as diverse as letters and manuscripts, works of art, solar panels, stamps, wine, diamonds or other niche markets.

The AMF wishes to remind investors that these sectors are not governed by the regulations that protect financial instruments. If the product proposed is not regulated by the AMF, the commercial documents produced by the companies will not be examined by the AMF. If there is a problem, the scope for recourse is limited.

As a result, the AMF advises investors to apply strict vigilance rules before making any such investment. These rules are valid for financial instruments, and even more so for any product that does not fall into the regulated financial sphere:

- No commercial argument should make you forget that there is no such thing as a high return without a high risk. Any product that offers a higher yield than the monetary rate (investors may refer to the rate of the "Livret A" savings account) is likely to involve a high degree of risk;
- The information sent by your intermediary must be clear and understandable. To avoid disappointments, stick to the old saying, "don't invest in something you don't understand perfectly";
- Get at a least a solid base of information about the companies or intermediaries that are proposing the product (legal identity, country, civil liability, organization rules, etc.);
- Ask yourself how, and by whom, the product has been valued (purchase or sale price);
- Find precise information about the rules or mechanisms in place allowing the resale of the product.

Do you have any questions? You can find information on our website <http://www.amf-france.org> or contact the AMF Epargne Info Service helpline on +33 (0)1 5345 6200, Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 5pm.