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Consob warning on

**COVID 19: Fraud-oriented initiatives adopted for taking profit of the coronavirus pandemic**

The National Commission for Companies and the Stock Exchange (Consob) warns that the dramatic news about the development of viral outbreaks can represent for scammers a suitable opportunity for spreading false or misleading information with the purpose of taking an unfair profit out of the fears related to the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

In particular, savers must keep alert against real fraud attempts, managed mainly through the Internet.

These scams may assume variable features and they could involve, among other things, the offer - through promotional material and the provision of fake news - of non-existent stocks or bonds of imaginary companies alleged as taking initiatives for the containment or the cure of the coronavirus or with relation to the offer of alleged high-yield investment opportunities in various contexts, including trading of alleged virtual currencies linked to the spread and lethality features of viral contagion (such as "**Coronacoin**").

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