

## **Revised version: Warning by the Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets to investors regarding foreign companies**

This press release replaces the press release dated 23 January 2003. Amendment to third paragraph.

The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (the 'Authority') is advising investors not to take up offers of securities by Ocean International Marketing B.V., Seed International Ltd., Cupidus.com Ltd., Cupidus.com (Turks & Caicos) Ltd., which are all firms operating internationally. In the interests of protecting investors, the Authority is issuing a public warning against these firms.

Ocean International Marketing B.V., acting as a marketing agent on behalf of Seed International Ltd. and Cupidus.com (Turks & Caicos) Ltd., is offering stockbroking services from the Netherlands without having a licence for such activities from the Authority. Intermediary services are being offered regarding the sale of bonds of Cupidus.com (Turks & Caicos) Ltd. and shares in Cupidus.com Ltd., Optidisc, CD Fender and shares in the ?wine program? of Seed International Ltd.

Ocean International Marketing B.V., acting on behalf of Seed International Ltd., Cupidus.com (Turks & Caicos) Ltd., and Cupidus.com Ltd., is offering securities at issue in or from the Netherlands beyond a restricted circle or is holding out the prospect of such offer by means of advertisements or documents.

These firms are breaching the Act on the Supervision of the Securities Trade 1995 (Wet toezicht effectenverkeer 1995 / Wte 1995). In the light of these breaches, the Authority advises the investing public against conducting business with these parties.

The advice of the Authority to investors is to find out from the Authority before using the services of securities institutions or offerors of securities whether such institutions are licensed to offer securities services in the Netherlands or are covered by an exemption. The telephone number of the Supervision Information Line of the Authority is 0900 540 0540. The register of licensed institutions (the Wte Register) is also available on this website.

Pursuant to the Wte 1995, the Authority supervises securities institutions and offerors of securities. The Act lays down the requirements that have to be satisfied by securities institutions and offerors of securities. The aim of the Authority in this is to protect investors against buyers of capital, against intermediaries and against other investors. In addition, it is the role of the Authority to ensure that the market operates fairly, transparently and efficiently.