

The Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) warns the public against the activities of the website named www.molineaux-investment.com, which offers investment services without complying with Belgian financial legislation.

The persons operating the website named www.molineaux-investment.com are **not authorized** to provide investment services in or from Belgium.

Moreover, the offer made via that website shows **numerous indications of fraud** and seems to be similar to the fraudulent wealth management or savings plan offers denounced by the FSMA in the <u>warning</u> it published on 1 March 2019.

Lastly, the website usurps the name of the investment company called Molineaux Investment Services LLP.

The FSMA thus strongly advises against responding to any offer of financial services made by that website and against transferring money to any account number it might mention.

More generally, the FSMA reminds the public that the number of investment fraud cases is constantly increasing and thus invites consumers to exercise utmost prudence. The FSMA offers a few recommendations:

- Be wary of (promises of) completely disproportionate returns. Where a return seems too good to be true, it usually is.
- Always verify the identity of the company that approaches you (company identity, home country, etc.). If
  a company cannot be clearly identified, it should not be trusted. Please note: beware of 'cloned firms',
  companies that pass themselves off as different, lawful companies even though they have no connection
  with them. For more information on this subject, please refer to the warning published by the FSMA on 28
  January 2019.
- Find out the date on which the company created its website; if the website recently came into existence, this could be an additional indication of investment fraud.
- Be wary of requests to pay money into bank accounts in countries that have nothing to do with the supposed registered office of the company that approaches you, or your own place of residence. Be wary also of requests to transfer money to accounts of which the beneficiary is different from your contact person.
- Beware, and do not trust the 'professional' look of the website to which you are referred; fraudsters clearly do everything they can to appear as legitimate as possible.

\*\*

More than ever, then, prudence is necessary. If you have the least doubt about whether financial services being offered to you are lawful, please don't hesitate to contact the FSMA directly via the <u>consumer contact form</u>. As well,

feel free to notify us of any suspicious company that has not yet been the subject of a warning by the FSMA.

**Source URL:** https://www.fsma.be/en/warnings/fsma-warns-public-against-website-wwwmolineaux-investmentcom