

### ***The AFM warns against Merkater Business Company***

The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) is warning investors not to accept any offers for investment services made by Merkater Business Company. The AFM believes that Merkater Business Company is offering and has provided investment services in the Netherlands without a licence or exemption. In addition, the AFM has received a complaint from a consumer who has been approached by phone by Merkater Business Company. Offering and providing investment services in the Netherlands without a licence or an exemption constituted a violation of the Act on the Supervision of Securities trade 1995 (withdrawn) and constitutes a violation of the the Act on Financial Supervision.

Merkater Business Company uses an address in London (United Kingdom) for its investment services operations. The AFM advises investors wanting to do business with an institution or person to first check the relevant register on the AFM website to see whether the institution or person in question is registered and authorised to offer or provide investment services in the Netherlands. The AFM also urges investors to consult the warning lists in advance. The three AFM warning lists are available online at [www.afm.nl/waarschuwinglijsten](http://www.afm.nl/waarschuwinglijsten) <<http://www.afm.nl/waarschuwinglijsten>>: (1) institutions and individuals without the licence required by law, (2) institutions which do not issue a prospectus along with their securities as required by law, and (3) institutions against which foreign supervisory authorities have issued warnings. Investors who have any queries or complaints should contact the Financial Markets Information Line on +31 20 797 3715.