

## **ALERT**

We (the Financial Services Authority – FSA) have published this statement today in order to warn investors against dealing with unauthorised firms.

This statement is to advise members of the public that an organisation cold calling from overseas and identifying itself to UK individuals as:

### **ACI Financial Markets Association**

(Based in Paris) and giving website details as [www.aciforex.com](http://www.aciforex.com)

is not authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) to carry on a regulated activity in the UK. Regulated activities include, amongst other things, advising on investments and dealing and arranging deals in investments ('investments' include stocks and shares). We believe that the organisation may be targeting UK customers.

**The following international trading body has informed us that they have no association whatsoever with the organisation discussed above identifying itself as ACI Financial Markets Association**

- **ACI The Financial Markets Association, 8, Rue du Mail, F-75002, Paris, France. Tel: +33 1 42 97 51 15. Website: [www.aciforex.com](http://www.aciforex.com)**
- **ACI UK The Financial Markets Association, c/o 1 Rosewood Close, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4LP**

It appears that the unauthorised overseas firm is directing UK consumers to the website of the international trading body in order to persuade them of their legitimacy. ACI The Financial

Markets Association is an **international trading association** and **does not** conduct any form of client based investment activity. ACI is a body established to provide, amongst other things, best practice recommendations and guidance for its members who are employed within the international financial services community. If you have been contacted by telephone by the unauthorised firm claiming to be ACI Financial Markets Association and offered investments please report this to us using our on-line reporting form. You can find this at:

<http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Doing/Regulated/Law/Alerts/form.shtml>

### **What does this mean for you?**

If you are an investor, you should be aware that **the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are not available** if you deal with an unauthorised company or individual.

### **How can you check whether a firm is authorised?**

To find out whether a company or individual is authorised, go to the FSA Firm and Person Check Service at [www.moneydeclared.fsa.gov.uk/tools/check\\_our\\_register.html](http://www.moneydeclared.fsa.gov.uk/tools/check_our_register.html)

Date: 6 January 2009

**Note:** For an up-to-date list of unauthorised firms issued, please visit:

[www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Doing/Regulated/Law/Alerts/index.shtml](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Doing/Regulated/Law/Alerts/index.shtml)

For further information on unauthorised firms targeting UK investors see the press release issued on 6 June 2006 at:

[www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2006/053.shtml](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2006/053.shtml)

For more details about the tactics that are commonly adopted by unauthorised firms targeting UK investors see the warning issued in April 2005 available at:

[www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2005/039.shtml](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2005/039.shtml)

The Share Investments Scam leaflet issued in October 2004 available at:

[www.moneydeclared.fsa.gov.uk/pdfs/share\\_scams.pdf](http://www.moneydeclared.fsa.gov.uk/pdfs/share_scams.pdf)