

Press Release

30 June 2010

EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE <u>30 June 2010</u>

Financial Regulator Issues Warning on Investment Firms

The Financial Regulator today (Wednesday, 30 June 2010) published a warning notice on two firms: Borsa Financial (Italy) and New Century Capital (Austria and the United Kingdom). These firms are not authorised as investment firms in Ireland and have been offering investment services to members of the Irish public. The notice is published today in Irish daily newspapers under the European Communities (Markets in Financial Instruments) Regulations 2007.

It is a criminal offence for an investment firm to operate in Ireland unless it has an authorisation from the Financial Regulator. Clients of unauthorised firms are not eligible for compensation from the Investor Compensation Scheme.

Any person wishing to contact the Financial Regulator with information regarding such firms may telephone **1890-200-469**. This line is also available to the public to check if an investment firm is authorised. Since obtaining the necessary legal powers in August 1998, 81 warnings naming 154 firms have been issued. A list of all warning notices issued to date is available on the website www.financialregulator.ie

Ends

For further information please contact: Press Office – Paul Gray +353 (0)1 224 6299