

## The AFM issues a warning against First Prime Group

14-5-2009

The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM) is warning consumers not to respond to offers from First Prime Group International Ltd., also known as First Prime Group. The AFM received a report from a consumer who was repeatedly approached by First Prime Group in respect of the purchase and sale of shares.

In the period of 19 August 2008 to 9 February 2009, First Prime Group received instructions from the consumer to purchase or sell shares. The AFM is of the opinion that First Prime Group has provided investment services in the Netherlands without having a license or having been granted an exemption. Nor did an exception apply to First Prime Group. Providing investment services without a relevant licence constitutes a violation of Article 2:96 of the Act on Financial Supervision.

First Prime Group has, according to its website, [www.firstprimegroup](http://www.firstprimegroup), and its email correspondence, its registered office at the following address: 6-16-503 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan. First Prime Group's telephone and fax number are, according to its website and correspondence: +81 3 4550 0454 and +81 3 4496 4072.

On 16 August 2007, the Norwegian supervisory authority warned the public not to do business with First Prime Group. The Swedish supervisory authority issued a similar warning on 7 July 2008. These warnings were published on the AFM website.

The AFM advises consumers, who wish to do business with an institution or person, to check the relevant register on the AFM's website in advance to verify whether the relevant institution or person is registered and is authorized to provide investment services in the Netherlands. The AFM also urgently advises consumers to check the warning lists in advance. [waarschuwingslijst AFM](#) shows two AFM warning lists. (1) AFM warning list. This list shows institutions and person who do not have a licence while they should have one according to the law. It also lists institutions that do not provide a prospectus with their securities, while they are required to do so by law. (2) Foreign warning list. This list includes institutions against which foreign supervisors have issued a warning.

Investors with questions or comments can also contact the AFM's Financial Markets Information Line on: +31 0900 - 5400 540 (0,05 euro per minute) or from abroad +31 20 797 3715.

*The AFM promotes fairness and transparency within financial markets. We are the independent supervisory authority for the savings, lending, investment and insurance markets. The AFM promotes the conscientious provision of financial services to consumers and supervises the honest and efficient operation of the capital markets. Our aim is to improve consumers' and the business sector's confidence in the financial markets, both in the Netherlands and abroad. In performing this task the AFM contributes to the prosperity and economic reputation of the Netherlands.*