

## Press release

## **GERARD & ALTERMAN (CLONED FIRM)**

The Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) warns the public against the activities of Gerard & Alterman (cloned firm), a company that offers investment services.

Gerard & Alterman (cloned firm) is not an authorized investment firm in Belgium. It is therefore not allowed to provide investment services in or from Belgium.

Moreover, according to the information available to the FSMA, the activities proposed could be of a fraudulent nature, i.e. boiler room fraud. More information on this form of fraud is available in the general warning published by the FSMA on 4 May 2016.

The FSMA thus strongly advises against responding to any offer of financial service made by Gerard & Alterman (cloned firm) and against transferring money to any account number it might mention.

Gerard & Alterman (cloned firm) uses the website www.gerardalterman.com, the email address info@gerardalterman.com and the phone number 01865 521 057. It claims to have its registered offices in the United Kingdom (G&A, Harcourt House, Marston Road, Oxford, OX3 0EJ); in the Unites Arab Emirates (1 Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai, PO Box 333840) and in Belgium (Rue du Gruyer 50, 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort). The latter address (in Belgium) is also the address of the cloned firm Gerard & Alterman Sprl (see below).

Gerard & Alterman (cloned firm) has stolen the identity of the Belgian firm of the same name, Gerard & Alterman Sprl, registered with the FSMA at the address Rue du Gruyer 50, 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort. Identity theft is a common feature of "cloned firm" fraud: the fraudsters steal the identity of an existing person or company (such as a lawyer, authorized company, etc.) in order to use its trustworthiness or legitimacy to convince investors.

This company has been the subject of a warning by the FCA dated 3 February 2016.

If you wish to check in general whether a proposed transaction complies with the financial regulations, please use the search function (available in <u>Dutch</u> and <u>French</u> only) on the website of the FSMA. You can also contact the FSMA (email address: <u>info@fsma.be</u>).

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