

Paris, 25 February 2009

AMF issues a warning about HSC or HCS Worldwide

The Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF) warns the public about the activities of HSC or HCS Worldwide, a company apparently headquartered in Italy.

The company contacts investors in France, in particular, by telephone to offer them shares in US companies traded on the over-the-counter market. The funds needed to purchase the shares supposedly transit through an institution based in Asia.

The AMF points out that HSC or HCS Worldwide has not been authorised to conduct direct marketing activities or operate as an investment services provider in France. Furthermore, a warning about the company has been issued by the AMF's counterparts in Sweden (Finansinspektionen) and Denmark (Finanstilsynet).

The AMF therefore urges investors who may be contacted by the company to proceed with utmost caution.