Fake interviews with bank CEOs? Definitely don't invest

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The Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) is once again drawing the public's attention to the dangers posed by fraudulent trading platforms. These platforms lure investors online with promises of quick and easy earnings. Their offers look attractive, but they are nothing more than advanced scams that can lead to significant financial losses. In recent weeks, the FSMA has noted that scammers use images of CEOs of major banks in fake interviews.

In these staged interviews, the journalist critiques the credits offered by the banks. To make money, it is better to invest, he continues. This is possible via a revolutionary system in which a person can get rich quick with an investment of only 250 euros. But these interviews are completely fake, and the products offered are entirely fraudulent.

How does a fraudulent trading platform work? (flowchart)

1. **Modes of contact**

Fraudsters use various techniques to contact their targets:

- a fake advertisement which mentions a celebrity;
- a fake interview of a CEO of a big bank by a well-known TV presenter;
- a website intended to 'recruit' victims;
- a fake profile on social media or on a dating app (Tinder, Bumble, Happn, etc.);
- an invitation to join a trading group (e.g., on WhatsApp or Telegram).

In each case, the platform tries to lure investors by promising that they can earn money in a very short time, often well beyond the sorts of gains that are actually achievable.

2. **Registration**

Interested investors register on the platform and deposit funds to their trading account. Generally, investors begin with a relatively small sum, such as 250 euros. Sometimes the swindlers offer to help their victims by taking over their device remotely in order to make certain transfers on their behalf. This allows them to install viruses or spyware.

3. **Manipulation and pressure tactics**

Once the funds have been deposited by the victim, the platform manipulates the transactions to give the impression that high profits have been achieved. However, these earnings are fictitious and the funds have not really been invested. The fraudsters then put pressure on their victims to invest more money. They do so by means of repeated phone calls, time-limited offers to which investors must respond quickly, or by issuing threats.

4. **Withdrawals seem impossible**

To gain victims' trust, fraudsters sometimes allow them to withdraw several times. However, once an investor wishes to withdraw a larger amount, the fraudsters make excuses to avoid paying out any money (high costs, taxes, etc.).

The FSMA also noted that some platforms used a **pyramid structure**. The investors are encouraged to recruit new participants. Their investment makes it possible to pay earlier investors. When it becomes impossible to recruit new participants, the pyramid collapses.

In all cases, the fraudulent platform disappears completely, taking with it all the investors' money.

The FSMA has noted that the following websites were putting consumers in contact with fraudulent trading platforms:

- **Azaliumbit** (azaliumbit.com);
- **Beinveron** (beinveron.com);
- **Eminix Fintrion** (eminix-fintrion.com);
- **Impuls Crescente** (impulscrescente.com);
- **Ivelis Trade 7.2** (ivelistrade72.com);
- **Juste Patrimòire** (justepatrimoire.com, justepatrimoireai.com);
- **Quantex Belgica** (immediaterevolution360.nl, quantexbelgica.com, quantex-belgica.net);
- **Riche Fondois** (riche-fondois.com);
- **Steen Luxeris** (steen-luxeris.com, steenluxeris.net);
- **Sterk Fundalis** (sterkfundalis-be.com);
- **Stevig Valtrion** (500-intal.com, stevig-valtrion.com);
- **Sûreté Valflux** (surete-valflux.com);
- **Vénitance** (venitance.com, venitance-ai.com);
- **X Trade Grok 9.1 Nova** (xtradegrok91-nova.com).

The FSMA strongly advises against responding to offers made by the following trading platforms:

- **222-Trade** (222-t.com);
- **Alivio Finances** (aliviofinances.com, platform.aliviofinances.com);
- **Arko Group** (arko-group.com);
- **Aventor Partners** (aventorpartners.com, platform.aventorpartners.com);
- **Axstera** (axstera.com);
- **CF Trading** (cf-trading.com);
- **CrystoVision** (crystovision.net);
- **Eha Markets** (ehamarkets.com);
- **Exodus AI** (exo-futures.com);
- **Exovate Markets** (exovate-markets.com);

- **Fx-Ln** (fx-ln.com);
- **Genesisarbit** (genesisarbit.pro, webtrader.genesisarbit.io, webtrader.genesisarbit.top, genesisarbit.one);
- **Globera-Fx** (globera-fx.com);
- **Grand Gate Agency** (grandgateagency.net, grandgateagency.co);
- **Infinity Max Edge** (infinitymaxedge.com);
- **Innovate X Capital (Clone)** (innovatexcapital.trade);
- **Invest Capital World** (investcapitalworld.com, live.investcapitalworld.com);
- **Lotment Capital** (lotmentcapital.com, trading-area.lotmentcapital-v2.com, trading-area.lotmentcapital-v3.com, trading-area.lotmentcapital-v5.com);
- **MSF** (msf.global);
- **NewRockwood** (newrockwood.ai);
- **Nova Trade Core** (novatradecore.com);
- **NowWeTrade** (nowwetrade.com);
- **Plustrade** (plustrade.io);
- **Promorion Group** (pro-morion.net);
- **PrymexEnergy** (prymexenergy.com);
- **Rockpoint Partners** (rockpointpartners.ai);
- **SPO, Mttzoq** (mttzoq.icu);
- **Suisse Equity** (suisseequity.com);
- **Swissquote (Clone)** (swissquote-es.com);
- **Sybbex Limited** (sybbex.com);
- **TheGainForge** (thegainforge.com, trading.thegainforge.com);
- **Volia Invest AG** (voliainvest-ag.com);
- **Yureplex** (webtrader.revolnys-mumbtyx.com, yureplex.com).

The FSMA has added these entities to **the list of fraudulent trading platforms**. Beware, this list **is not complete, but it is updated frequently**. If you wish to verify whether a company has the necessary authorisations to offer financial services and products, please consult the page 'Check your provider'. In case of doubt, contact the FSMA.

I’ve fallen victim. What should I do?

Stop making any transactions and break off all contact with the platform: don’t deposit any more money and don’t provide any additional personal or financial information. Break off all contact with the fraudsters. They may try to manipulate you in order to take even more money from you. If you were added to a trading group, leave it as soon as possible.

Contact your bank: inform your bank immediately if you have made any payments to the fraudulent platform.

Report the fraud to the competent authorities: Contact the FSMA and file a report with the police.

Document all exchanges of data and transactions: gather all evidence of your exchanges of data with the platform, including emails, messages, account statements and screen shots of the transactions. These items will, of course, be very valuable when you report the fraud.

Beware of ‘recovery rooms’: fraudsters contact victims of a previous scam and offer to help them – for a fee – recover their lost money. Generally, this constitutes yet another attempt at fraud.

For more recommendations on how to avoid investment fraud, please consult the ‘How to recognize and avoid fraud’ page on the FSMA website. Please watch the awareness-raising videos as well (available in Dutch and French only).