



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
CAPITAL MARKET COMMISSION

Athens, 15 April 2020

PRESS RELEASE

The Board of Directors of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission (HCMC) decided, at its meeting of 15.04.2020, and in coordination with the National Competent Authorities of France, Belgium, Spain and Austria, to renew, according to article 24 of Regulation (EU) 236/2012, the ban on short sales or other transactions other than short sales which create or increase the net short position in shares admitted to trading on the regulated market of the Athens Exchange, for which the competent authority is the HCMC, irrespective of the trading venue where the transaction is executed.

The ban applies to sales of shares covered by subsequent intraday purchases. The ban also applies to all related instruments, which are relevant for the calculation of the net short position according to Annex I, part 1, articles 5 and 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 918/2012.

The HCMC based its decision on the continuing impact of the COVID–19 pandemic in the markets in the Union, including Greece, and having assessed that such measure will not have a detrimental effect on the efficiency of financial markets, which would be disproportionate to its benefits. The ban is a prudential measure, which under the exceptional circumstances, due to the spread of the COVID–19 pandemic, is deemed necessary in order for the HCMC to be in a position to monitor the developments in the Greek market.

It is clarified that in accordance with Art. 20 par. 3 of the Regulation, the aforementioned ban shall not apply to market makers performing market-making activities and in particular on:

- (a) the shares which fall under the ban,
- (b) the stock derivatives of shares which fall under the ban,
- (c) warrants of the shares which fall under the ban ,
- (d) ETFs and Index derivatives of which the above shares are part of their composition.

Above-mentioned exemptions are permitted providing that the short selling transactions are conducted for hedging purposes.

In addition, the creation or increase of net short positions through index derivatives are excluded from the ban providing that the index composite does not include shares covered by the Decision in a percentage over 50% of the index weight.

The renewal shall be in force as of 00:00:01 hours (CET) on 25.04.2020 until 24:00:00 (CET) on 18.05.2020.

The measure may be lifted before 18.05.2020, if market conditions change.

The HCMC is in constant contact with the competent authorities of other Member States and ESMA, is closely monitoring the developments in the financial markets and is ready to take appropriate decisions and measures to ensure the smooth functioning of the Greek market and investor protection.

An updated explanatory text in the form of questions-answers (Qs & As) is available on the website of the HCMC.