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Press Release

The Hellenic Capital Market Commission (HCMC) announces the 9th edition of World Investor Week 2025, in cooperation with the IOSCO, to focus on Combating Relationship Investment Scams. IOSCO's World Investor Week (WIW) is a week-long, global campaign to raise awareness of the importance of investor education and protection, and to highlight the various initiatives of securities regulators in these two critical areas. Further related information shall be found at the HCMC's website <http://www.hcmc.gr> as well as at the IOSCO's World Investor Week's website www.worldinvestorweek.org/.

As part of this year's WIW, which will take place from October 6-12, there will be a focus on relationship investment scams and the devastating impact these kinds of scams can have on an investor's financial future. These scams are called various names, including romance scams, crypto/cryptocurrency investment scams, financial grooming scams, and "pig butchering" scams. The scams involve a "long con" where fraudsters target people through wrong-number texts, dating apps, and social media over time to build trust through friendship, romance or an offer to help them achieve their financial goals.

The HCMC's Chair, Ms. Vasiliki Lazarakou, stated:

"Our active participation in IOSCO's World Investor Week campaign confirms our strategic priority to strengthen investor protection in Greece and to foster a strong culture of financial literacy. Our goal is to provide investors with the necessary knowledge and the right tools to make safer and well-informed decisions, at a time when market developments bring both challenges and new opportunities."

After the relationship is established, fraudsters claim to know about profitable investment opportunities. Individuals are then directed to a legitimate looking (but fake) investing website or app. Once individuals have invested all their money, the “new friend” disappears and unfortunately so does their money.

Relationship investment scams are estimated to have caused people to lose tens of billions of dollars globally. WIW 2025’s anti-fraud relationship investment scams campaign aims to inform investors about the warning signs of these scams and help empower them with information to protect themselves:

Red Flags

- Unsolicited investment advice and opportunities.
- Conversations that are moved off social or dating platforms to encrypted messaging apps or to an unmonitored space.
- A prolonged inability to meet in person.
- Repeated suggestions for investments or requests for money.

Protect Yourself

- Ignore, delete, and block messages from senders you don’t know.
- Make investment decisions independent of the advice of someone who makes unsolicited contact with you online or through an app or text message.
- Research investment opportunities thoroughly.
- Protect information about your identity and personal finances.
- Never pay money to recover your investment or to release funds.