

VM Vita Markets Ltd

(Regulated by the Cyprus Securities & Exchange Commission)

INVESTOR COMPENSATION FUND POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

VM VITA MARKETS LTD (the “Company”) is a Cypriot Investment Firm incorporated and registered under the laws of the Republic of Cyprus. The Company is authorized and regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (“CySEC”) under the **license No. 373/19 (CIF 373)**.

The Company is a member of the Investor Compensation Fund (the “Fund”) which was established pursuant to Directive DI87-07 of CySEC for the operation of the investor compensation fund (“the Directive”) as an investor compensation fund for customers of Cyprus Investment Firms (CIFs) and other Investment Firms (IFs) which are not credit institutions. The Fund’s powers and functions are regulated by the provisions of the Directive.

The Fund constitutes a private law legal entity and its administration is exercised by an Administrative Committee of five (5) members, who are designated for a three-year term. The object of the Fund is to **secure the claims of the covered clients** against the members of the Fund by the payment of compensation for their claims arising from the covered services provided by its members, so long as failure by the member to fulfill its obligations has been ascertained.

It is a legal obligation for CIFs and other IFs, which are not banks, to subscribe to the Fund.

Any compensation provided to clients by the Investor Compensation Fund shall not exceed the lower of 90% of the cumulative covered claims of the covered client and **EURO 20.000**. This applies to clients’ aggregate claims against the Company.

2. COVERED CLIENTS

The Fund covers the clients of the Company, **except those belonging into the following categories:**

- a. The following categories of institutional and professional investors:
 - i. IFs;
 - ii. legal entities associated with the member of the Fund and, in general, belonging to the same group of companies;
 - iii. banks;
 - iv. cooperative credit institutions;
 - v. insurance companies;
 - vi. collective investment organizations in transferable securities and their management companies;
 - vii. social insurance institutions and funds;
 - viii. investors characterized by the member as professionals upon their request, pursuant to the provision of paragraph B of the Second Schedule of the Investment Services and Activities and Regulated Markets Law of 2017 (“Law”).
- b. Supranational institutions, government and central administrative authorities;
- c. Provincial, regional, local and municipal authorities;
- d. Enterprises that have close ties with the Fund member as the term «close ties» is construed in Article 2(1) of the Law;
- e. Managerial and administrative staff of the Fund member;
- f. Shareholders of the Fund member whose participation directly or indirectly in the capital of the Fund member amounts to at least 5% of its share capital, or its partners who are personally liable for the obligations of the Fund member as well as persons responsible for the carrying out of the financial audit of the Fund member as provided by the Law, such as its qualified auditors;
- g. Investors having in enterprises connected with the Fund member and, in general, with the group of companies to which the Fund member belongs, positions or duties corresponding to those listed in sub-paragraphs (e) and (f) above;

- h. Up to second-degree relatives and spouses of the persons listed in sub-paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) mentioned above, as well as third parties acting for the account of these persons;
- i. Apart from the investors, investors-clients of a member of the Fund responsible for facts pertaining to the member of the Fund that have caused its financial difficulties or have contributed to the worsening of its financial situation or which have profited from these facts;
- j. Other firms in the same group;
- k. Investors in the form of a company, which due to its size, is not allowed to draw a summary balance sheet in accordance with the Companies Law or a corresponding law of a Member State.

In the cases of sub-paragraphs (e), (f), (g), (h) and (j) mentioned above, the Fund shall suspend the payment of compensation informing the interested parties accordingly, until it reaches a final decision as to whether such cases apply.

Covered clients need not be Cypriot citizens. Foreigners residing in Cyprus, as well as Cypriots or foreigners residing abroad, may also apply.

3. COVERED SERVICES

Covered services are the following **Investment Services** which are offered by the Company:

- a. Reception and Transmission of orders in relation to one or more financial instruments;
- b. Execution of orders on behalf of clients;
- c. Portfolio Management;
- d. Provision of Investment Advice.

Covered ancillary service is the following **Ancillary Service** which is offered by the Company:

- a. Safekeeping and administration of financial instruments for the account of clients, including custodianship and related services such as cash/collateral management and excluding maintaining securities accounts at the top tier level (“central maintenance service”), as referred to in point 2 of Section A of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 909/2014.

Financial Instruments in relation to which Investment Services are currently provided by the Company are the following:

1. Transferable securities;
2. Units in collective investment undertakings;
3. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements and any other derivative contracts relating to securities, currencies, interest rates or yields, or other derivatives instruments, financial indices or financial measures which may be settled physically or in cash;
4. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements and any other derivative contracts relating to commodities that must be settled in cash or may be settled in cash at the option of one of the parties (otherwise than by reason of a default or other termination event);
5. Options, futures, swaps, and any other derivative contract relating to commodities that can be physically settled provided that they are traded on a regulated market or/and an MTF;

4. COMPENSATION OF COVERED CLIENTS AND PAYMENT FORMALITIES

i. Failure of a member of the Fund to fulfill its obligations toward its investors

The Fund compensates the covered clients for claims arising from the covered services provided by its members, as long as failure by the member to fulfill its obligations has been

ascertained notwithstanding a relevant obligation by the member of the Fund in accordance with the legislation and the terms which govern its agreement with the covered client and regardless of whether the said obligation of the member of the Fund is based on the agreement or on wrongdoing.

Failure by a member of the Fund to fulfill its obligations consists of its failure:

- Either to return to its covered clients funds owed to them or funds which belong to them but are held by the member, directly or indirectly, in the framework of the provision by the said member to the said clients of covered services, and which the latter requested the member to return, in exercise of their relevant right; **or**
- To hand over to the covered clients' financial instruments which belong to them and which the member of the Fund holds, manages or keeps on their account, including the case where the member is responsible for the administrative management of the said financial instruments.

ii. **Preconditions for the initiation of the compensation payment procedure by the Fund**

The Fund initiates the compensation payment procedure when **at least one of the following occurs:**

- If the member of the Fund submits to the Fund or to CySEC a written statement declaring its failure to fulfill its obligations toward its clients; **or**
- If the member of the Fund files an application for liquidation; **or**
- If CySEC has revoked or suspended the member's authorization to provide investment services and ascertains that the member of the Fund is not expected to be in a position to fulfill its obligations toward its clients in the near future, for reasons which do not concern a temporary lack of liquidity which can be dealt with immediately.

CySEC may request by the member of the Fund to set out its views within a short deadline so fixed, which cannot be less than three (3) working days from the date of the invitation to set out such views.

iii. **Procedure relating to the invitation of covered clients to submit applications**

Upon issuance of a decision by the Court or by CySEC, on the commencement of the compensation payment process, the Fund publishes in at least three (3) newspapers of national coverage, an invitation to the covered clients to make their claims against the member of the Fund arising from covered services, designating the procedure for the submission of the relevant applications, the deadline for their submission and their content.

The publication contains at least:

1. the name and address of the headquarters of the member of the Fund, to whom the covered client compensation process has been activated through the Fund;
2. the deadline for the submission of compensation applications, which cannot be less than five (5) months and greater than nine months from the last publication;
3. the mode and address of submission of applications;
4. the address at which investors may be informed about the exact content of the applications to be submitted, and get the relevant form provided by the Fund.

iv. **Interruption of deadline for submission of applications**

In case a covered client, not being its fault, was neither informed about the invitation to submit compensation applications nor in a position to submit within the deadline this application, the deadline is interrupted provided that an interruption of the deadline arises in case of an event of

force majeure, as long as it has been proved that it prevented the keeping of the deadline for the submission of compensation applications or the collection and submission of the required information.

Indications that the covered client has an impediment for which he is not responsible, and which forms a reason for the interruption of the deadline for the submission of a compensation application include especially:

- proved absence of the covered client abroad for a period which includes at least half of the deadline for the submission of a timely application; **or**
- illness confirmed by a doctor that it forms a serious impediment for the submission of an application for a period which includes at least half of the deadline for the submission of a timely application; **or**
- his stay in a correctional institution for a period which includes at least half of the deadline for the submission of a timely application.

A covered client who submits an application late to the Fund for the payment of compensation is obliged to submit, in addition to the information forming the necessary minimum content of the application a solemn declaration stating the reason for which he was not in a position to claim compensation in time attaching the necessary supporting evidence to prove his allegations.

v. **Content of compensation applications submitted to the Fund**

The compensation applications of covered clients with which they make their claims against a member of the Fund are submitted to the Fund in writing. The compensation applications **must include:**

1. the name of the claimant;
2. the address, telephone and fax numbers as well as any email address of the claimant;
3. the client code that the claimant had for the member of the Fund;
4. the particulars of the covered services agreement between the Fund and the claimant;
5. the type and amount of the alleged claims of the claimant; and
6. the particulars from which the alleged claims of the claimant and their amount are derived.

The Fund may ask for more information included in the compensation application, which it communicates with its publication in at least three (3) newspapers of national coverage as well as in the Official Gazette of the Republic, and puts a catalogue with this information at the disposal of investors, at its offices and/or at the offices of the member of the Fund.

vi. **Procedure relating to the recording and evaluation of the alleged compensation claims**

The Fund designates at least one (1) qualified auditor and at least one (1) lawyer with knowledge on capital market issues, who after having checked initially the relevant prerequisites, they evaluate the claims submitted to the Fund and recommend to the Administrative Committee their acceptance in total or in part or their rejection. In case of disagreement between these persons, each one of them submits a separate recommendation. The remuneration of the persons is agreed between the Fund and these persons and burdens the member of the Fund, and, if necessary, is paid by the Fund.

The said persons, in order to evaluate the applications:

1. ask from the member of the Fund to express its opinion about the grounds of the claims alleged by the claimants and, in case of doubt, to present the relevant supporting documents;
2. evaluate, based on the information they have, the applications, determining the amount of the compensation for each claimant.

The said persons have full access to the books kept by the member of the Fund, in order to accomplish their work, and they are obliged to exhibit confidentiality against any third party as to the information coming to their knowledge in the exercise of their duties provided that the said obligation of confidentiality is disregarded in order to render possible the exercise of their duties.

vii. Decision of the Administrative Committee on submitted applications

Upon submission of the applications the Administrative Committee has control especially if:

- the claimant falls within the category of covered clients;
- the application was timely submitted;
- the conditions of legislation and of this Policy for the valid submission of compensation applications are fulfilled.

The Administrative Committee rejects the application in case the claimant does not fulfill the above conditions or, if at the Administrative Committee's discretion, there exists at least one (1) of the following reasons:

- The claimant used fraudulent means in order to secure the payment of compensation by the Fund, especially if it knowingly submitted false evidence;
- the damage suffered by the claimant substantially derived from concurrent negligence or offence on its behalf in relation to the damage it suffered and to its underlying cause.

The Administrative Committee during the examination of the applications takes into consideration the recommendations of the persons and decides on the applications submitted to the Fund determining the amount of the compensations for each covered client-claimant.

viii. Unjustifiably paid compensation

The Fund may demand at any time from a covered client to return the compensation paid to it, if it finds out *a posteriori* that there was a reason to reject its application.

ix. Fixing of the amount of payable compensation

To ascertain the claims of a claimant against a member of the Fund, as well as any counterclaims of the member of the Fund against the claimant, the books kept, and the particulars issued by the member of the Fund as well as the supporting evidence produced by the claimant are taken into consideration.

The amount of the compensation payable to each covered client is calculated in accordance with the legal and contractual terms governing the relation of the covered client with the member of the Fund, subject to the set-off rules applied for the calculation of the claims between the covered client and the member of the Fund.

The valuation of the financial instruments pertaining to the compensation payable to the covered client is carried out based on their value at the day:

- of publication of the Court;
- of publication of the decision of CySEC.

The calculation of the payable compensation derives from the sum of total established claims of the covered client against the member of the Fund, arising from all covered services provided by the member and regardless of the number of accounts, of which it is a beneficiary, the currency and place of provision of these services.

As the amount of the claim determined under this Regulation exceeds the amount of twenty

thousand Euro (**EURO 20.000**), the claimant receives as compensation the lump sum of the amount of twenty thousand Euro (**EURO 20.000**).

x. **Valuation of claims of covered clients and its notification process**

Upon completion of the valuation, the Fund:

- issues a decision listing the clients of the Fund member which are compensation beneficiaries along with the amount of money each one of them is entitled to receive, and communicates it to CySEC and the Fund member within five (5) working days from its issue; the said decision shall also list those clients to whom no compensation shall be paid, and the reason for this; and
- communicates to each affected client its decision the soonest possible from its issue;

CySEC, in order to ensure that the provisions of the legislation in force in the Republic are fulfilled during the examination of the applications and the calculation of the amount of the corresponding compensation per covered client, may:

- request from the Fund, the member of the Fund and the claimant to produce information and particulars;
- run any investigation required, implementing the relevant provisions of CySEC Law of 2009 to 2017, as in force, and especially those provisions enacting the powers of the CySEC for entry and investigation.

The claimant to whom the Fund communicates the total compensation amount to which it is entitled, in case it disagrees with the Fund's decision, has the right within ten (10) days from the communication of the decision, to appeal to CySEC, justifying sufficiently its alleged claim.

The CySEC, in as long as it finds errors or inaccuracies as to the evaluation by the Fund of the applications for the payment of compensation and the fixing of the compensation for each claimant, taking into consideration any memos submitted to it by claimants, may demand from the Fund to correct the payable compensations with a decision communicated to the Fund within forty-five (45) days from the communication to it of the minutes of the compensation beneficiaries.

xi. **Deadline and procedure relating to the payment of compensation**

The Fund is obliged to pay to each covered client-claimant the compensation within three (3) months from sending to CySEC the minutes with the compensation beneficiaries.

The payment of the compensation by the Fund is deposited to a bank account of the covered client-claimant designated by the latter in writing to the Fund.

Every compensation payable to a covered client burdens initially the property of the Fund corresponding to the individual shares of its members and then the assets of the fixed reserve.

xii. **Effects of payment of compensation**

The payment of any compensation by the Fund entails *ipso jure* subrogation of the Fund to the rights of the compensated covered client-claimant against the member of the Fund for an amount equal to the compensation payable to it.

5. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE FUND

An application to the ICF may be submitted in one of the following two ways:

1. By filling in the **online application** form which can be found on the website of CySEC;
2. By **submitting a letter** to the offices of the ICF, accompanied by all supporting evidence.

The letter / application may:

- a. be sent **By Post** to the following address:
Investor Compensation ICF for IF Clients, 27 Diagorou Str., 1097 Nicosia, Cyprus.
- b. be delivered **By Hand** to the offices of the ICF, at the following address:
Investor Compensation ICF for IF Clients, 27 Diagorou Str., 1097 Nicosia, Cyprus.

When submitting an application, make sure to include at least the following information:

1. Particulars of the applicant (name, address, Identity Card / Passport No., telephone and fax numbers and email address).
2. The name of the ICF member against which the application is submitted and the client code and/or the applicant's investment account No.
3. Copy of the covered services agreement between the ICF member and the applicant.
4. The type and total amount of alleged claims by the applicant.
5. Copy of the statement of account from the transactions platform that you used.
6. Copy of the statement of deposits and withdrawals from the account held with the ICF member.
7. Copies of documents that prove the applicant's deposits to the ICF member (e.g. swift transfers, deposit orders, debit advice etc.).
8. Description of the facts and evidence giving rise to the alleged claims by the applicant and the amount of such claims with specific references to actions or omissions of the ICF member.
9. Any other evidence or supporting documents to demonstrate that the applicant is entitled to apply for compensation.
10. Reference and copies of any correspondence with the ICF member concerned.
11. Written confirmation that the information included in the application/letter as well as all the documents accompanied it are correct and true.