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Chairman of the Israel Securities Authority, Anat Guetta: “Decision on exemptions for supervised industry in order to assist in dealing with the implications of the COVID-19 virus”

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In response to the Corona virus’ effect on the capital market

- **Designated teams have been set up to provide a 24/7 response to supervised entities.**
- **Exemptions have been published for assistance to supervised entities.**
- **A round of meetings has been held with representatives of the supervised entities.**
- **Entities that are essential to maintaining the continuity of trading and service to the public have been defined.**
- **A toolbox to deal with stress scenarios has been assembled.**

The Chairman of the Israel Securities Authority (ISA), Anat Guetta, announced today that: “The ISA is monitoring the capital environment in Israel and abroad and accordingly is working to formulate appropriate measures, while protecting the interests of the investing public. We have decided on providing exemptions to the supervised industry in order to assist in dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 virus. This follows a round of talks with representatives of all the supervised entities in order to ensure functioning continuity and ability to provide services to the public. In addition, the ISA is encouraging all of the relevant entities to open a dialog in order to examine the implications of the crisis and to find appropriate financing solutions in order to successfully manage the crisis, for the benefit of both the investing public and the companies. We are now in a challenging period. I am aware of the heavy pressure on investment advisors and portfolio managers who remain in direct contact with the investing public, who might be acting impulsively due to the exceptional events. The ISA supports you and is confident in your professionalism and discretion and is certain that you are attaching all of your skills in order to provide responsible and well-considered guidance to each investor, according to his personal needs.”

Guetta added: “Investors should examine their personal needs in the long term perspective. We encourage investors, even at this challenging time, to pursue their steps vigorously, with the assistance of certified professionals: portfolio managers and investment advisors, who are committed to serving you.”

The ISA, under the leadership of **Chairman Anat Guetta**, is announcing today (March 16, 2020) exemptions which are intended to assist supervised entities in light of the effect of the COVID-19 virus on the Israeli capital market. These measures are being published following an assessment made by the staff of the ISA and according to matters that came up as part of the round of meetings held by the ISA Chairman yesterday (March 15, 2020) throughout the day (through technological channels).

The meetings were held with representatives of the supervised entities which are part of the trading chain : the Stock Exchange, the public companies, mutual fund managers, investment banks and portfolio managers.

During these meetings, the Chairman of the ISA reported that in view of the importance of the orderly functioning of the stock exchange and the trading sequence for Israel's economy, the ISA together with the Homefront Command have mapped out a list of critical players in an emergency situation in order to enable the functional continuity of the stock exchange, of trading on the stock exchange and of the capital market in general.

In addition, the Chairman of the ISA expressed her willingness to find solutions and to consider providing exemptions, according to the assessments carried out by the ISA, with the aim of assisting and facilitating the conduct of the financial bodies during this period, while maintaining a balance with the interests of the investing public.

Furthermore, the Chairman of the ISA reported that the ISA is working hand-in-hand with other financial regulators in the examination of additional measures that may be required during this period in order to support the capital market from the economy's perspective.

The ISA has created designated teams that are working on a 24/7 basis to handle the needs and inquiries of the supervised bodies.

Following is a list of exemptions published by the ISA:

1. Providing a 30-day extension to reporting corporations for the publication of the periodic report for 2019, until April 30, 2020.
2. Providing a 60-day extension to investment advisors for the publication of the annual report on equity capital and insurance for 2019.
3. Providing reporting reliefs for mutual fund managers.
4. Publishing of a clarification regarding the possibility of purchases of securities by the company or controlling shareholders following the publication of preliminary financial information, in accordance with the directives of the ISA.
5. Publishing of a clarification regarding the possibility of holding General Meetings and Board of Directors' meetings by technological means for distance meetings.
6. Expanding the possibility of carrying out coordinated transactions in ETFs also with those who are not managing other people's money.
7. Publishing of a clarification that will provide flexibility in the documentation of investment advice conversations.

Further information can be found on the ISA site.

For further details, please contact the spokesperson of the ISA, Hadar Horen, tel. 050-6207943.