

PRESS RELEASE

<u>Brexit: Consob details in a Communication the obligations of both British intermediaries</u> <u>operating in Italy and vice-versa, linked to the decree-law on no-deal Brexit</u>

Consob has today published a Communication (Communication no. 7 of March 26th, 2019) in relation to the requirements for both British intermediaries operating in Italy and for Italian intermediaries operating in the United Kingdom, making reference to Decree Law no. 22, which has been adopted by the Italian government in case of *hard Brexit*, *i.e.* the United Kingdom leaving the European Union (EU) without a withdrawal agreement ("no-deal"),

In view of *hard Brexit* would immediately result in the expiration of the benefits of the European Passport, which currently allows the Member States intermediaries to provide services within the EU, the British firms already registered in Italy will have to stop all their activities in our country starting from the Brexit date. The same will be - on the reverse – for the Italian firms operating in the United Kingdom, too.

However, the intermediaries operating in both countries are allowed, according to the decree, to continue to pursue their activities, during the transitional 18-months period starting from the Brexit date, after having properly noticed it to the national competent Authorities.

Firms that will cease their activities are required, instead, to provide information on it to their clients, both retail and professional ones, in such a way as to be proportionate to the categorization of clients. Communications to clients must be drafted in a clear and understandable language, giving a comprehensive disclosure of all the Brexit impacts on clients, including a possible closing of current contractual relationships.

All British intermediaries must notify to Consob specific information on relationships with Italian clients at the date of Brexit, within 15 days following such date.

Rome, 26 March 2019