



# Risk Disclosure

## Stratos Europe Limited



## GENERAL RISK DISCLOSURE NOTICE

## IN RELATION TO CONTRACTS FOR DIFFERENCE AND TRANSFERABLE SECURITIES

This notice provides a non-exhaustive list of the risks associated with derivative products trading (Contracts for difference, "CFD") and investing in Transferable Securities ("Transferable Securities", "Listed Shares" or "Shares"). This notice also contains other significant aspects related to these two specific types of products which are provided by the Firm. This notice cannot explain all of the risks associated with the Firm's Products and Services nor how such risks relate to your personal circumstances. **You should not deal in the Products and Services offered by the Firm unless you understand the nature of the investment you are entering into and the extent of your exposure to risk. You should also be satisfied that the specific Investments are appropriate for you in the light of your circumstances and financial position.**

Stratos Europe Limited (trading as "Tradu"), ("we", "us" or "the Firm") is a Cyprus Investment Firm ("CIF") registered with the Cyprus Department of Registrar of Companies (HE 405643) and authorised and regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission ("CySEC") under license number 392/20.

The Firm is committed to delivering the best possible outcomes for its clients in the execution of their orders taking all sufficient steps according to factors such as price, costs, speed, likelihood of execution and settlement, size, nature or any other consideration relevant. The Firm acts as principal in relation to all CFD trades and therefore is the sole execution venue. However, it is noted that in the case of Transferable Securities, the Firm only receives and transmits client orders to a third party Execution Broker, Alpaca Securities LLC ("Alpaca" or "Execution Broker"). Thus, the Firm does not execute clients' orders in relation to Transferable Securities but it is still under an obligation to take all sufficient steps in order to obtain the best possible result for its clients.

## **1. Risks Associated with Derivatives (Contracts for Difference ("CFDs"))**

Whilst derivatives instruments can be utilised for the management of risk, some investments may not be appropriate for many investors. Different instruments involve different levels of exposure to risk, and in deciding whether to trade in such instruments, you should be aware of the following points:

- (a) **Contracts for Difference** can be likened to futures, which can be entered into in relation to the FTSE-100 index or any other index or share, as well as currency. Investing in a CFD carries risks similar to investing in a future or an option and you should be aware of these. Transactions in CFD may also have a contingent liability and you should be aware of the implications of this as set out in paragraph (c) below.

**CFDs are complex instruments and come with a high risk of losing money rapidly due to leverage.**

**You should consider whether you understand how CFDs work and whether you can afford to take the high risk of losing your money.**

- (b) **Investing in CFDs** carries risks and you should be aware of these. Transactions in CFDs may also have a contingent liability and you should be aware of the implications of this as set out in paragraph (d) below. In addition to standard industry disclosures contained in the Terms of Business, you should be aware that **CFDs are some of the riskiest forms of investment available in the financial markets and are only appropriate for sophisticated individuals and institutions. Given the possibility of losing an entire investment, any additional funds deposited to maintain your position(s), and/or, unless you are a retail client, incurring a debit balance owed to the Firm, speculation in CFDs should only be**

**conducted with risk capital funds that, if lost, will not significantly affect your personal or institution's financial wellbeing.**

If you have pursued only conservative forms of investment in the past, you may wish to study CFDs and their underlying instruments further before continuing an investment of this nature. **You must also realise that the risk in buying CFDs means you could lose the entire investment.** If you wish to continue with your investment, you acknowledge that the funds you have committed are purely risk capital and loss of your investment will not jeopardise your style of living nor will it detract from your future retirement program. Additionally, you acknowledge that you fully understand the nature and risks CFDs and their underlying instruments, and your obligations to others will not be neglected should you suffer investment losses.

**When trading CFDs, you are not entitled to the physical delivery of the underlying instrument of the CFDs you are trading and you have no rights (including voting rights) in the underlying instrument. This means that you are not entitled to ownership of the underlying asset of such a contract.**

Positions opened with us are not traded on any exchange (i.e. the transactions are undertaken over the counter (OTC) and, as such, they may expose the Client to greater risks than regulated exchange transactions. The prices and other conditions are set by us, subject to any obligations we have to provide best execution, to act reasonably and in accordance with the Terms of Business and our Order Execution Policy. Each CFD trade that you open through the Firm Online Facility results in you entering into a contract with us; these contracts can only be closed with us and are not transferrable to any other person.

- (a) **Liquidity Risk.** Some of the CFD underlying assets may not become immediately liquid as a result of reduced demand for the underlying asset. As such, the Client may not be able to obtain the information on the value of these or the extent of the associated risks.
- (b) **Foreign Markets and Currency Risk.** Foreign markets involve different risks from domestic markets. In some cases risks will be greater. The potential for profit or loss from transactions on foreign markets or in foreign currency will be affected by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. Such enhanced risks include the risks of political or economic policy changes in a foreign media, which may substantially and permanently alter the conditions, terms, marketability or price of a foreign currency.

Investing in FX Contracts and CFDs with an underlying asset listed in a currency other than your base currency entails a currency risk, due to the fact that when the CFD or FX Contract is settled in a currency other than your base currency, the value of your return may be affected by its conversion into the base currency. Any changes in the exchange rates may have a negative effect on the financial instrument's value, price and performance, and may lead to losses for the Client.

- (c) **Risk Reducing Orders or Strategies.** The placing of certain orders (e.g., "stop loss" or "stop limits" orders) that are intended to limit losses to certain amounts may not always be effected because market conditions or technological limitations may make it impossible to execute such orders. Strategies using combinations of positions such as "spread" and "straddle" positions, may be just as risky as, or even riskier than, simple "long" or "short" positions.
- (d) **Prices.** The prices posted on the Firm's Online System may not necessarily reflect the broader market. We will select closing prices to be used in determining Margin requirements and in periodically marking to market the positions in customer accounts. Although we expect that these prices will be reasonably related to those available on what is known as the interbank

market, prices we use may vary from those available to banks and other participants in the interbank market. Consequently, we may exercise considerable discretion in setting margin requirements and collecting margin funds.

- (e) **Performance Calculation.** Unlike in the case of direct investment in underlying assets such as Shares, bonds, currency pairs or commodity futures, in cases of CFDs you are subject to an exponentiated market risk; market risk is the possibility of a client experiencing losses due to factors that affect the overall performance of the financial markets in which the client is involved. Controlling such risk requires a specific kind of expertise and trading experience. In addition, the margin held by you on your CFD account amounts to just a fraction of the value of the corresponding underlying asset of the CFD when high leverage is applied. The higher the leverage, the smaller the fraction of the underlying asset's value to be put down and the smaller the part of the underlying's price fluctuation range covered by your margin.
- (f) **Volatility Risk.** Some derivatives such as CFDs trade within wide intraday ranges with volatile price movements. Therefore, the Client must carefully consider that there is a high risk of losses as well as profits. The price of derivative financial instruments is derived from the price of the underlying asset in which the derivative financial instruments refer to. Derivative financial instruments and related underlying markets can be highly volatile. The prices of derivative financial instruments and the underlying asset may fluctuate rapidly and over wide ranges and may reflect unforeseeable events or changes in conditions, none of which can be controlled by the Client or the Firm.

Under certain market conditions, it may be impossible for a Client's order to be executed at the declared prices, leading to losses. Due to market conditions which may cause any unusual and rapid market price fluctuations, or other circumstances, the Firm may be unable to close out Customer's position at the price specified by Customer and the risk controls imposed by the Firm might not work and Customer agrees that the Firm will bear no liability for a failure to do so.

Changing supply and demand relationships, governmental, agricultural, commercial and trade programs and policies, national and international political and economic events, and the prevailing psychological characteristics of the relevant market place are factors which, among other things, influence the prices of derivative financial instruments and the underlying asset.

In times of high volatility or market/economic uncertainty, values may fluctuate significantly. Such fluctuations are even more significant in case of leveraged positions and may adversely affect your positions. In the event of default, your positions may be closed out.

- (g) **Client Money and Counterparty Risk.** Any money that we hold on your behalf are kept in one or more segregated accounts with an institution within or outside the European Economic Area, separated from the Firm's money. It is noted that the legal and regulatory regime applying to any financial institution outside Cyprus or the EEA will be different to that of Cyprus.

However, where we are unable to meet our duties and obligations arising from your claim, you may benefit from the Investor Compensation Fund. The Firm participates in the Investor Compensation Fund for clients of investment firms regulated in the Republic of Cyprus. Certain clients will be entitled to compensation under the Investor Compensation Fund where the Firm is unable, due to its financial circumstances and when no realistic prospect of improvement in the above circumstances in the near future seems possible.

- (h) **Weekend Risk.** Various situations, developments or events may arise over a weekend when the currency markets generally close for trading, that may cause the currency markets to open

at a significantly different price from where they closed on Friday afternoon. Our customers will not be able to use the Firm Online System to place or change orders over the weekend and at other times when the markets are generally closed. There is a substantial risk that stop-loss orders left to protect open positions held over the weekend will be executed at levels significantly worse than their specified price.

- (i) **Electronic Trading.** Trading in OTC contracts through the Firm's Online Facility may differ from trading on other electronic trading systems as well as from trading in a conventional or open market. Customers that trade on an electronic trading system are exposed to risks associated with the system including the failure of hardware and software and system down time, with respect to the Firm's Online Facility, the individual customer's systems, and the communications infrastructure (for example the internet) connecting the platform with customers. Since the Firm does not control signal power, its reception or routing via Internet, configuration of your equipment or reliability of its connection, we cannot be liable for communication failures, distortions or delays when trading via the Internet. The Firm employs backup systems and contingency plans to minimize the possibility of system failure, and trading via telephone is available.
- (j) **High Leverage and Low Margin Risk.** The high degree of "leverage" is a particular feature of both CFDs and FX Contracts. Trading risks are magnified by leverage.

The effect of leverage makes investing in CFDs riskier than investing in the underlying asset, due to the margining system applicable to CFDs, which generally involves a small deposit relative to the size of the transaction, so that a relatively small price movement in the underlying asset can have a disproportionately dramatic effect on your position. This can be both advantageous and disadvantageous.

A small price movement in your favour can provide a high return on the deposit, however, a small price movement against you may result in significant losses. If you are a retail client, your losses will never exceed the balance of your account, which is balanced to zero, if the losses are higher than the amount deposited. Such losses can occur quickly. The greater the leverage, the greater the risk. The size of leverage therefore partly determines the result of the investment.

It is noted that leverage restrictions apply with respect to retail CFD accounts, ranging from 1:2 to 1:30 depending on the underlying instrument.

- (k) **Contingent Liability Transactions**, which are margined, require you to make a series of payments against the purchase price, instead of paying the whole purchase price immediately. Clients must maintain the minimum margin requirement on their open positions at all times. It is Customer's responsibility to monitor his/her open positions. Retail clients could sustain a total loss of deposited funds but are not subject to subsequent payment obligations, but professional clients and eligible counterparty clients could sustain losses in excess of deposits. If the market moves against you, you may be called upon to pay substantial additional Margin at short notice to maintain the position. If you fail to do so within the time required, your position may be liquidated at a loss and professional clients and eligible counterparties will be liable for any resulting deficit. Even if the Transaction is not margined, it may still carry an obligation to make further payments in certain circumstances over and above any amount paid when you paid when you entered into the contract. Contingent liability transactions, which are not traded on or under the rules of a recognised or designated investment exchange, may expose you to substantially greater risks.
- (l) **Collateral (Professional Clients and Eligible Counterparties Only).** You deposit collateral as security, you should ascertain how your collateral will be dealt with. Deposited collateral may

lose its identity as your property once dealings on your behalf are undertaken. Even if your dealings should ultimately prove profitable, you may not get back the same assets, which you deposited and may have to accept payment in cash.

- (m) **Conflict of Interest.** The Firm takes all reasonable steps to identify and prevent or manage the conflicts of interest arising in relation to its business lines and its group's activities under a comprehensive Conflicts of Interest Policy. The disclosure of conflicts of interest by the Firm should not exempt it from the obligation to maintain and operate the effective organisational and administrative arrangements. For more information on (potential) conflicts of interest and the mitigation measures taken by the Firm, kindly refer to the Firm's Conflicts of Interest policy.
- (n) **Commissions and Taxes.** Before you begin to trade, you should obtain details of all commissions and other charges for which you will be liable. If any charges are not expressed in money terms (but, for example, as a dealing spread), you should obtain a clear written explanation, including appropriate examples, to establish what such charges are likely to mean in specific money terms.

The Client is responsible for any taxes and/or any other duty and/or fee and/or expenses which may accrue in respect of his/her trades. The Client is responsible for managing his/her tax and legal affairs and complying with applicable laws and regulations. The Firm does not provide any regulatory, tax or legal advice and if the Client has any doubt regarding the tax treatment or liabilities of investment products which are available through the Firm, he/she should seek independent advice.

- (o) **Insolvency.** Any insolvency or default may lead to positions being liquidated or closed out without your consent. In certain circumstances, you may not get back the actual assets, which you lodged as collateral (for professional clients) and you may have to accept any available payment in cash. Additionally, if you are a professional client, you transfer full ownership and title to a portion or all of the money you deposit with the Firm representing an amount necessary to secure your open positions or cover your actual or future contingent or prospective obligations (which will be calculated daily in the Firm's sole discretion based on your daily open positions and trading and which may be greater than the Margin required to maintain your open positions, as market conditions may dictate) such that you will not have a proprietary claim over that portion or any of your money and that portion or any of your money will not be segregated and you will rank only as a general creditor of the Firm with respect to any claim for the payment of such portion of the above described money you deposit which may therefore be irrecoverable in the event of any insolvency or default.
- (p) **Appropriateness Risk Assessment.** Upon the opening of your account, the Firm shall carry out an assessment of your appropriateness to trade CFDs and determines, based on information you provide us with, if you have sufficient knowledge and experience to understand the risks involved in CFD trading. The assessment does not relieve you of the need to carefully consider whether to trade or not CFDs with us. If we warn you that trading these instruments may not be appropriate for you, then you should refrain from trading CFDs until you gain sufficient knowledge and experience. You could, for example, trade CFDs on a Demo Account prior to trading them in a live environment to be sufficiently acquainted with the relevant risks incurred.
- (q) **Extended Hours Trading Risk.** In cases when you wish to trade during hours different than the opening hours of the underlying market, i.e. extended market hours, please be informed that due to less trading volume than during trading hours (opening hours), there may be limited liquidity which may impact order execution and pricing. Because of the lower trading volumes, it is not unusual to experience higher volatility, wider spreads, or difficulty in having trades

executed. Almost all economic and market news announcements occurs outside of the trading hours. During these news events and at any time during the extended hours session, prices may move very quickly up or down and can reach levels that were not reached during the regular trading session.

Additionally, the prices of Products traded during extended hours may not accurately reflect those at the close of trading hours or at the commencement of the subsequent trading day. Consequently, participating in extended hours trading may result in obtaining a less favorable price compared to what you would obtain during trading hours.

You should only engage in CFD trading if you are prepared to accept a high degree of risk and in particular the risks outlined in the Risk Warning Notice. Retail clients could sustain a total loss of deposited funds but are not subject to subsequent payment obligations but professional clients and eligible counterparty clients could sustain losses in excess of deposits.

## **2. Risks Associated with Transferable Securities (Listed Shares)**

- a) **Risk of losing the entire investment.** There is a risk that the value of the Share of an issuing company falls to zero. This can happen due to numerous reasons including management decisions of the specific company, fraud, extreme market conditions and financial crises. In addition, the value of the entire investment can be lost in situations where the Share can become completely illiquid and/or impossible to sell, in the case of insolvency of the issuing company and during times of extreme social or political crisis affecting the economic stability of the country of the issuing company.
- b) **Insolvency.** In the unlikely event of the Firm or the Execution Broker becoming insolvent, the Products and Services may cease to be offered to you. This may also lead to your holdings (including the Listed Shares you have acquired) being liquidated without your consent.

If the company the Listed Shares of which you have acquired becomes insolvent, the ability to trade those Shares may be restricted and the price of the Shares may fall. The latter, could result in loss of the full amount of funds that you have invested in those Shares. In these circumstances, the specific Shares will be dealt with in accordance with appropriate insolvency procedures maintained by the third party responsible for safeguarding the Shares, which is the Execution Broker. You should also be aware that if trading in a Share is suspended or if that Share is no longer listed on a relevant venue, this may affect your ability to sell that Share and may result in action being taken to close out positions in those Shares.

- c) **Volatility of price.** The price or value of Shares or other types of equity instruments are influenced by a broad array of factors and can change rapidly and unexpectedly. The price of Shares goes up and down depending on market supply and demand, investor perception and the prices of any underlying or allied investments or, indeed, political and economic factors. These can be totally unpredictable.
- d) **Limitations on the available market for the specific instruments.** It is possible that the market price could have changed between order placement and execution time, and, therefore, we cannot guarantee that the price requested will be the same as the price at which the order is executed, therefore, the price you receive can be in your favour or against you, which is time-dependent. Also, execution of your orders can only occur within market hours, which means the execution price may be different to the price at which you placed your order, if that was done outside those hours.

- e) **Impediments or restrictions to disinvestment.** There is no guaranteed return on an investment in Shares, and in the event of a liquidation of the listed company, ordinary Shareholders are amongst the last with a right to repayment of capital and any surplus funds of the company, which could lead to a loss of a substantial proportion, or all of the original investment.
- f) **Risks specific to Fractional Shares.** Trading in fractional Shares carries additional risks as fractional Shares cannot be traded on regulated markets (such as public exchanges) and as such may be subject to greater liquidity risk than full Shares. In addition, fractional Shares cannot be transferred to another Broker (save in the event of the third party Execution Broker's insolvency) and must be sold via the Third Party Execution Broker.
- g) **Foreign Markets and Currency risk.** Where a Listed Share is denominated in a currency different from the one in which your account is denominated, the positive or negative change in the foreign exchange rate may impact, respectively, your profits or losses resulting from the Listed Share in question.
- h) **Electronic Trading Risk (Technology risk).** Technology malfunctions of the Firm's Trading Facility can impact the Products and Services. The result of any malfunction may be that an order for a Listed Share is not received, transmitted and/or executed in accordance with the instructions provided or is not executed at all. Such malfunctions may also impact your ability to monitor the value of the Listed Shares you have acquired.
- i) **Regulatory and Legal Risk.** Regulatory and legal changes in the jurisdictions in which the Firm and/or the Execution Broker are incorporated may affect the overall lawfulness of the Products and Services. The effect of such changes can be unexpected and moreover material in nature.
- j) **No Guarantee of Rights.** The right to receive dividend payments and/or the right to vote in general meetings of the issuing company may be present for certain Listed Shares. You should be aware that you might not be able to exercise these rights. In particular, dividend payments may not be guaranteed and you may not have the opportunity to vote in the general meetings of the company issuing the Listed Shares in question.
- k) **No advice.** The service of receiving and transmitting of orders for Listed Shares is done on a non-advised basis. Neither the Firm nor the Execution Broker provide any investment advice, including advice on the suitability of any particular investment or investment strategy.

Given the above, you will not benefit from the regulatory protections stemming from the assessment of suitability.

The Firm may publish general news and information, commentary, interactive tools, quotes, research reports and data concerning the foreign exchange markets, other financial markets and other subjects. You agree and understand that this information is not investment advice.

- l) **Client money and counterparty risk.** Please note that in accordance with our Terms of Business in relation to trading of Listed Shares, money that you deposit in your Listed Shares Trading Account will be automatically transferred, on your specific instructions, to a regulated third party Execution Broker, as also explained above, for the purpose of execution of your trades. It is noted that the Execution Broker may not be located in Cyprus or the EEA, and that the legal and regulatory regime applying to any Execution Broker outside Cyprus or the EEA will be different to that of Cyprus. In this case, Money transferred to the Execution Broker will no longer be held by the Firm as Client Money subject to CySEC's rules and may no longer be

covered by the Investor Compensation Fund in Cyprus or indeed any equivalent. However the Execution Broker will be registered and regulated under local Regulatory Regimes and Competent Authorities. Your money will be held by the third party Execution Broker in accordance with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction they are located in and in accordance with their Terms of Business.

- m) **Extended Hours Trading Risk.** In cases when you wish to trade during hours different than the opening hours of the underlying market, i.e. extended market hours, please be informed that due to less trading volume than during trading hours (opening hours), there may be limited liquidity which may impact order execution and pricing. Because of the lower trading volumes, it is not unusual to experience higher volatility, wider spreads, or difficulty in having trades executed. Almost all economic and market news announcements occurs outside of the trading hours. During these news events and at any time during the extended hours session, prices may move very quickly up or down and can reach levels that were not reached during the regular trading session.

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