

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
FARGOTRADES LTD )  
 )  
RESPONDENT )  
 )  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. CD-2019-0023

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

The Alabama Securities Commission ("Commission"), having the authority to administer and provide for the enforcement of all provisions of Title 8, Chapter 6, Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Securities Act ("Act"), upon due consideration of the subject matter hereof, has determined as follows:

**RESPONDENTS**

1. FARGOTRADES LTD ("F.TRADES") is an online entity that purports to be an investment management company located at 707 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. F.TRADES is accessible via the website [www.fargotrades.com](http://www.fargotrades.com) and may be served through its domain name registrar NAMECHEAP.COM located at 11400 W. Olympic Blvd, Ste 200, Los Angeles, California 90064, via namecheap.com or at [legal@namecheap.com..](mailto:legal@namecheap.com)

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

2. On June 13, 2019, Commission Staff received a registration inquiry from the North Alabama Better Business Bureau (BBB). Representatives of the BBB were seeking the registration status of F.TRADES due to an Alabama resident's request. That original complainant was aware of another Alabama resident who had invested funds with F.TRADES but had not received their stated monthly returns.

3. A review of the F.TRADES website at [www.fargotrades.com](http://www.fargotrades.com), the company is located at 707 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angles, California, having a number listed as 223-203-2226, and a Yahoo.com email address listed as [fargotrades@yahoo.com](mailto:fargotrades@yahoo.com). A review of the California Secretary of State's office had no listing of F.TRADES as a California limited company. An online search of the occupancy of 707 Wilshire Boulevard, revealed no listing for F.TRADES

as an occupant and the business telephone number prefix “223” for F.TRADES is a Mali country code.

4. According to the website, F.TRADES “*..is an investment management company, run by a team of trading experts who generate profits by buying and selling currencies, stocks, options and commodities on the foreign exchange market.*” F.TRADES also claims to be a “*leading investment provider and having technical strategies that cover equity, forex, commodities and fixed-income markets.*”

5. The F.TRADES website contains a chart graphic promoting Four (4) “*Flexible & Accommodating Plans for all “Investment Plans”*”, from the STARTER Plan having a minimum deposit of \$1,000 with a 10% weekly profit, the PRO Plan having a \$5,000 minimum deposit, with a 14% weekly profit, the SILVER Plan having a \$10,000 minimum deposit with a 16% weekly profit, and the PREMIUM Plan having a \$20,000 minimum deposit at 18% weekly profit. The website claims all the plans have a “*100% money back guarantee with instant automatic withdrawal into your wallet.*”

6. Within the Legal Licenses section of the F.TRADES website, F.TRADES claims to be “*duely [sk] registered with the American Trading Council (“ATC”), with registration number 229-703-4658.*” F.TRADES claims the registration number can be verified at the website [www.americantradingcouncil.com](http://www.americantradingcouncil.com). The ATC website claims to be an “*official Business Licensing Establishment for the United States of America.*” A review of the ATC website revealed a purported business address listed as 33 Arch Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 and a business telephone of 581-205-6173. Inputting the F.TRADES pre-designated registration number (229-703-4658) in the ATC verification page, provides a response that E.TRADES is an “Active” Electronic trader.

7. An online research of the ATC business telephone (581-205-6173) revealed it to be a Quebec, Canada prefix, as well as the business telephone number for COINEXX. The COINEXX website claims the entity to be an investment management company based in the United Kingdom. The representations made therein are similar if not identical to the F.TRADES website.

8. On June 14, 2019, a review of the registration files of the Alabama Securities Commission revealed no registration for the RESPONDENT in any capacity.

9. A review of the Alabama Secretary of State’s online database revealed no record for the RESPONDENT as a domestic or foreign business.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(10), Code of Alabama 1975, the definition of a security includes investment contracts and profit-sharing agreements. The investment plans outlined by the Respondent to garner the investor between 10% to 18% profit weekly are investment contracts or a profit-sharing agreement.

11. Pursuant to Section 8-6-4, Code of Alabama 1975, it is unlawful for any person to offer or sell any security in this state unless it is registered under the Act, the security is exempt from registration under Section 8-6-10; or the transaction is exempt under Section 8-6-11. The securities offered and sold by F.TRADES were neither registered nor exempt from registration in Alabama at the time of solicitation or sale and were offered and sold in violation of the act.

12. Pursuant to Section 8-6-3(a), Code of Alabama 1975, it is unlawful for any dealer or issuer to transact business in this state as a Dealer or Agent unless, he is registered under the Act. The RESPONDENT is not registered in any capacity with the Commission and has effected securities transactions in the state of Alabama in violation of the Act.

13. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(5), Code of Alabama 1975, the definition of an “issuer” includes every person who proposes to issue or has issued a security. RESPONDENT, by issuing securities, to wit: investment contracts and/or profit-sharing agreements, is an “issuer” as defined by the Act.

14. Pursuant to Section 8-6-17(a)(2), Code of Alabama 1975, it is unlawful for a person, in connection with the offer, sale, or purchase of a security, to make or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading. RESPONDENT made representations to being duly registered with a fictitious entity, the American Trading Council, a material misrepresentation, in violation of the Act.

This Order does not prevent the Commission from seeking such other civil or criminal remedies that are available to it under the Act.

This Order is appropriate in the public interest for the protection of investors and is consistent with the purposes of the Act.

Additionally, if the allegations set forth herein are found to be true, through either administrative adjudication, failure of the RESPONDENT to make a timely request for a hearing, or default of the RESPONDENT, it is the intention of the Commission to impose sanctions upon the RESPONDENT. Such sanctions may include, *inter alia*, an administrative assessment imposed on the RESPONDENT, an additional administrative assessment for investigative cost arising from the investigation of the violation(s) described herein against the RESPONDENT, and a permanent order to bar the RESPONDENT from participation in any securities related industry in the state of Alabama.

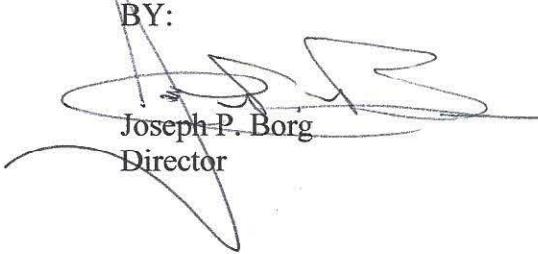
**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the RESPONDENT immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from further offers or sales of any security into, within or from the state of Alabama.

Entered at Montgomery, Alabama, this 24th day of June 2019.



ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION  
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BY:

  
Joseph P. Borg  
Director