

Broker checklist

Go through this before opening an account. Stop at any no in Section 1.

Version 2.0 (fillable)

1. Authorization and legal status

Provider found in a European regulator's public register

Name of the contracting entity (from the contract documents)

That entity's registered address

Not on a regulator's warning list

I wasn't contacted, I went looking myself

2. Safety of holdings

Securities are held as segregated assets

Settlement account held at

Deposit insurance applies, amount

Withdrawals only to a reference account in my own name

3. Costs

Account fee

Order fee

Venue fee

Savings plan free? If not, cost

Foreign-currency markup

Cost of an account transfer to another provider

4. Trading

Available venues

Order types available: market, limit, stop

Savings plan possible on the ETFs I want

Execution policy is findable and readable

5. Taxes

Automatic tax withholding? (yes / no)

Exemption order possible? (yes / no)

If no: I know I have to report everything myself

6. After opening

First small order placed and confirmation checked

Execution price compared against a reference price at the same time

Test withdrawal of a small amount completed