

## Private Equity Firms with Big Money Launched Listing in Europe

Equity buyouts in Europe have hit a 12-year high of \$31.6 billion so far this year, with nearly half of the capital invested in listed companies, while industry buyers are afraid to step in because of geopolitical concerns and concerns about the global economic slowdown.

Although these doubts led to a 67% drop in the size of European M&A transactions in the first quarter, equity acquisition firms with record-sized funds say they cannot remain bystanders.

"Whether the timing is good or bad, the job of the industry is to make money work," said Daniel Zilberman, European director of Huaping Investment Group. Huaping Investment Group and Anbaishen Private Equity Group are leading a \$3.4 billion acquisition of Inmarsat (ISA.L), a British satellite communications operator.

According to Bain's report, so-called privatization deals, the acquisition and delisting of listed companies, reached the highest level since the last boom in 2006-2007 last year, with 170 such deals finalized globally.

Privatization transactions last year amounted to \$227 billion, with Europe accounting for \$71 billion and North America for \$118 billion.

In 2019, Hellman & Friedman and Blackstone Group formed a consortium to acquire Scout24 (G24n. DE), Germany's largest private equity company, for 5.7 billion euros.

"Private equity funds are not worried about the downturn. They can flexibly reflect any macro issues in terms of pricing patterns and holding periods. In fact, if market conditions suddenly deteriorate, they can adopt a long-term strategy," said Laurent Haziza, global co-head of Rothschild's financial investment business.