German market puts brakes on high-frequency traders
5 March 2019

Trading in German and French share options on the Deutsche Boerse's Eurex platform will face a speed limit in a six-month test from June 3, the group said, adding the move would "enable market participants who provide liquidity to focus on the needs of final customers and institutional investors".

One of Europe's leading derivatives exchanges alongside London's LIFFE, Eurex says around one-third of its traders are high-frequency specialists, but that they account for 50 to 60 percent of options trades.

High-frequency trading has often under scrutiny as a potential amplifier of swings on financial markets.

"Some high frequency trading actors are especially active at times of high market volatility and can therefore contribute to strengthening trends in price development," Germany's Bundesbank central bank warned in a 2016 report.

But so-called "speed bumps" like Eurex's "parking" rule have mostly been limited to American exchanges until recently.

Atlanta-based Intercontinental Exchange said in February that it would slap a three-millisecond delay on orders for gold and silver futures contracts.

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