



"Towards a comprehensive European framework for online gambling"

Evolving environment in the EU

- **Online gambling is a fast developing market**
 - diverse remote distribution channels and new forms of gambling services
 - € 13 billion annual revenues expected in 2015, apprx. 15% overall EU gambling market
- **Consumers and citizens use or are exposed to gambling services**
 - around 6.84 million consumers participating in online gambling in the EU
 - gambling sites may operate outside any form of national control

Legal developments

- **Member States are regulating/opening their online gambling markets in view of:**
 - Public interest objectives
 - Channelling citizens from illegal to legal gambling sites
- **Complaints and lack of legal clarity**
 - Significant number of pending investigations and complaints
- **Court of Justice of the EU**
 - Preliminary rulings – more than 20 judgments
 - Member States may set the policy objectives and the level of protection sought *but* national regulatory frameworks have to comply with EU law
 - Basic principles : consistency, no discrimination

Commission: public consultation 2011

- **260 responses**
- **Feedback**
 - Gambling is harmful if not regulated
 - Challenges to public policy objectives in cross-border environment
 - Unanimous call for action at EU level
 - Reluctance for EU sector-specific legislation



Communication "Towards a comprehensive European Framework for Online Gambling"

- Communication (and Staff Working Document) adopted on 23 October 2012
- Contains an action plan with 5 priority areas
- No legislative sector-specific proposals
- A mix of initiatives covering a range of issues & evidence based

5 Key Action Areas

- Compliance of national regulatory frameworks with EU law
- Enhancing administrative cooperation and efficient enforcement
- Protecting consumers and citizens, minors and vulnerable groups
- Preventing fraud and money laundering
- Safeguarding the integrity of sports and preventing match-fixing



1. Compliance of national regulatory frameworks with EU law

- Co-existence of regulatory frameworks
- Enforce relevant Treaty provisions (CJEU case law)
- Invite Member States subject to *investigations* and *complaints* to inform on legislative developments
- Assessment of consistency of national policies

2. Enhancing administrative cooperation and efficient national enforcement

- **Relevance of competent regulatory authorities**
- **Importance of enhanced cooperation to meet regulatory challenges**

Action:

- **Facilitate administrative cooperation and explore IMI possibilities**
- **Explore the benefits and limits of responsive measures**
- **Clarify procedures for notifying and acting on unauthorised content**
- **Regulatory dialogue with third countries**

3. Protecting consumers and citizens

- MS convergence on protecting citizens – diverging approaches
- Need of common standards of protection + protection of minors

Action:

- **2 Recommendations: consumer protection & responsible advertising**
- **Support benchmarking and testing of parental control tools**
- **Research on kinds of gambling disorders**
- **Assess online gambling market performance under Consumer Market Monitoring Survey**

4. Preventing fraud and money laundering

- A main public order objective of Member States
- Credit card fraud and theft of banking credentials – most common

Action:

- Extend Anti-Money Laundering Directive to all forms of gambling
- Assess need for specific measures tackling identity theft
- Explore EU standard on gambling equipment
- Urge Member States training of the judiciary on fraud and money-laundering gambling-related issues

5. Safeguarding sport integrity and preventing match-fixing

- Betting-related match fixing : a particularly challenging type of fraud
- Strong concerted efforts needed - limited cooperation currently exists
- Regulatory and self-regulatory mechanisms in the EU

Action:

- Recommendation on best practices to prevent and combat betting related match fixing
- Commission participation in Council of Europe initiative
- Promote international cooperation and dialogue
- MS urged to set up contact points, equip national systems and consider sustainable financing for sport integrity



An effective action plan

- **Commission to work with Member States and gambling sector**
- **Evaluation 2 years after Communication adoption**



Thank you!

ec.europa.eu/internal_market/services/gambling_en.htm

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