

Paris, December 12th 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Online gambling regulatory authorities:

Meeting in Paris, on December 11th and 12th 2012, of the Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and French online gambling regulatory authorities or directions, at the ARJEL, in the presence of a German delegation.

Over two days, the Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and French regulatory authorities or directions met in order to exchange on national and European outlooks for the sector, to share market data, to discuss regulatory standards, in particular technical, to assess their alert engineering systems and discuss the ethical issues facing sport.

Following this work, the authorities and services reaffirmed that they share three strong convictions :

1. The sector of online gambling represents particularly important risks in terms of public and social order whatever the country. This sector cannot therefore be considered an everyday activity or service. It is therefore vital to protect, whatever the regulatory method chosen, players from the risks of addiction and dishonesty in gaming operations, and to ensure transparency and ethics to prevent the development of criminal activities.
2. Nevertheless, and bearing in mind the nature of the Internet, the 4 regulators consider it vital to be able to exchange, either within the formal framework of bilateral cooperation agreements or during informal meetings with a significant operational content, as was the case during this meeting spent discussing the state of the market, technical regulatory standards, the protection of player funds, sporting ethics as well as the international sharing of liquidities. Such discussions enhance cooperation as well as the efficiency of regulations. It is in this state of mind that representatives of the German regulatory authorities participated in this work for the first time. France also mentioned the very fruitful discussions with the British Gambling Commission, a country where the legal framework of gaming is currently evolving.
3. These discussions ran over several months between these regulators nourish the reflections called by the European Commission at the European level. The representatives of the regulatory authorities which met over these two days wanted to point out that there can only be effective administrative cooperation between countries that share these ambitious and compatible regulatory goals. Within this framework, agreements aimed at facilitating exchanges, particularly of operators' liquidity, could be reached, according to national legislation.

The regulatory authorities also decided to publish consolidated data from their markets twice a year.

In 2013, the next meetings of this informal and open group will be held at the end of the first semester in Lisbon and in Roma for the second semester.