

PRESS RELEASE

Rome meeting of Regulatory Authorities of France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and United kingdom

On the 16th and 17th of January the 4th informal meeting of online gambling regulators took place in Roma.

Representatives from the authorities of France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the UK, covering a substantial proportion of the European gambling market, have attended this meeting, which was aimed at a further improvement of the information sharing and good practices exchange among the regulators and developing advice to feed into the European Commission Expert Group.

The delegation had the opportunity to visit the premises and operations of the Italian national IT Company, Sogei that developed and manages the central control system for all the Italian gambling activities.

The participants shared their views on: regulatory evolution of domestic markets, EU ongoing work on online gambling, the different control systems, the exchange of standardized market data, the role of game suppliers, the technical standards, skill games and the legal issues linked to the exchange of personal data, and focused particularly on ways:

- to deter suppliers from providing unlicensed operators with products competing with licensed products
- to collaborate more effectively in combating illegal offer including scope for the European Commission to support and facilitate such collaboration
- to share data while fully reflecting local data protection requirements
- to maintain high standards of player and public protection reflecting each states' cultural and political priorities in a way that takes account of regulatory costs for multi-jurisdictional licensees. The work of other groups of regulators in promoting greater commonality of standards and transfer of test results was discussed.
- to produce comparable market data across participants' jurisdictions

The next meeting will be held next autumn in Germany.