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PRESS RELEASE

French Professional Football League and French Online Gaming Regulatory Authority react to match-fixing allegations in France

The French Online Gaming Regulatory Authority (ARJEL) and the French Professional Football League (LFP) are surprised by the statements of MEP Marc Tarabella and company Federbet alleging match-fixing in France.

ARJEL and the LFP wish to point out that no bets on the matches mentioned in those statements were offered in France. The National championship is not open to betting and the League 2 Bastia/Clermont match was withdrawn from the offer of French licensed operators as, under ARJEL's regulations, a match without sufficient stakes cannot be open to betting. These matches were accordingly not monitored by ARJEL.

If it appears that abnormal stakes were registered by some foreign operators, it is unfortunate that the relevant institutions have not been informed of this situation.

ARJEL and the LFP request the gaming sites involved to provide, without delay, the LFP with the elements at Federbet's disposal in order to enable the LFP, if necessary, to lodge complaints and bring civil actions. The LFP will otherwise consider taking libel action against Federbet.

ARJEL and the LFP cannot endorse these statements on a monitoring failure by the French regulatory authorities and sports institutions. Such allegations are groundless: the most stringent measures against sporting fraud have been taken by ARJEL and the LFP in close cooperation with the French police. In this regard, ARJEL and the LFP emphasize that information on possible match-fixing should be given first and foremost to judicial authorities so as to allow them to investigate.

ARJEL and the LFP stress the importance of the international convention to combat the manipulation of sports Competitions, which will allow an increased cooperation between signatory States to counter the global threat of match fixing.