

PRESS RELEASE

ARJEL and ESSA sign partnership protocol on the eve of Euro 2016



This Monday, Charles Coppolani, Chairman of ARJEL, the French independent administrative authority in charge of online sports betting regulation in France, and Mike O’Kane, Chairman of ESSA, a non-profit betting and sport integrity monitoring association consisting of the major European sports betting operators, have signed a partnership protocol.

This protocol aims at organizing the exchange of information between both institutions regarding unusual patterns detected through their respective monitoring systems of sports betting. The upcoming Euro is expected to generate the greatest amount of bets in 2016 (reaching approximately 60 billion euros worldwide).

This innovative approach to fight against match fixing will be maintained over time. First, for the Olympics Games in Rio, and then, for all the sports competitions on which licensed operators are authorized to offer bets in France.

Mike O’Kane, Chairman of ESSA, said: “We are delighted to be working with ARJEL, this agreement represents an important milestone in establishing a network of international information sharing agreements between regulators and responsible regulated betting operators. One of our key objectives has been to establish cross-sector partnerships as the most effective means of tackling betting related corruption in sport.”

Charles Coppolani, Chairman of ARJEL stated: “The exchange of information and international cooperation with betting companies is a key part of the Council of Europe Convention to protect sport and tackle corruption. This agreement strengthens our betting integrity framework ahead of one of the biggest sporting events in the world, taking place on French soil. Sports betting integrity is paramount and ARJEL is committed to protecting that ethos and to working with responsible stakeholders such as ESSA.