

**Internal Market and Consumer Protection committee
Public Hearing**

“Online Gambling in the EU: New rules of the game?”

**European Parliament
15 June 2011**

**Peter Reynolds
Board member**



“Online Gambling in the EU: New rules of the game?”

Green paper – a window of opportunity

- ➔ EGBA and RGA: the regulated European online gambling industry
- ➔ Leading e-commerce businesses
- ➔ Innovative and secure online sports betting, poker, casino and bingo
- ➔ Green paper: ensure political and regulatory framework adapted to market reality

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The EU online gambling market – a global leader

- ➔ EU online gambling market 2010: EUR 10bn – 45% of global online gambling market
- ➔ 11% of total EU gambling market
- ➔ Traditional offline segment to keep the lion share
- ➔ Existing revenue streams secured
- ➔ Additional revenues generated by online sector and economic spill over to ancillary businesses

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The role of regulation – the way forward

- ➔ Gambling is subject to statutory regulation
- ➔ EGBA and RGA welcome increasing regulatory momentum on national level

However.....

- ➔ Need for compliance with EU law
- ➔ Cross-border nature of Internet to be taken into account

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Online gambling – rules of the Treaties to be enforced

- ➔ CJEU case law: preliminary rulings in 15 cases since 1994; 7 more pending*
- ➔ EU state aid investigations in France and Denmark
- ➔ Notification proceedings: >150 notifications from 23 member states since 2005**
- ➔ Infringement proceedings against 7 member states pending : no developments since 2008
- ➔ EC is ultimately the Guardian of the treaties and needs to restore legal certainty in Europe

* Source: Green paper staff working document, p. 16, 17

** Source: Green paper staff working document, p. 18

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Consumer protection – a shared interest

- ➔ EGBA and RGA committed to highest standards
- ➔ Compliance: licensing requirements, corporate laws, data protection and AML, IT best practice, self-regulation
- ➔ Key objectives of any EU legislation on gambling:
 - Protect consumers
 - Combat crime
 - Ensure market access for legitimate and regulated operators
- ➔ CEN Workshop Agreement on “Responsible Remote Gambling Measures” – 134 measures ensuring greater consumer protection for consumers across EU

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