

European Parliament – Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

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Online gambling in Finland
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Online gambling in Finland

- The Lotteries Act lays down provisions on running lotteries.
- The Act covers also online gambling.
- Gambling is not normal economic activity.
- Finnish gambling system is based on monopoly of three gambling corporations, which are the legal operators in Finland.
- The Act guarantees the legal rights of those participating in public lotteries, to prevent misuse and crime, as well as to reduce the social and health damage caused by participation in lotteries.

Online gambling in Finland

- The funds are distributed for promoting health and social well-being, sports, physical education, science, art, youth work and horse sports.
- To be able to protect consumers player needs to be identified before he starts playing.
- The Finnish gambling corporations checks the name, social security number, age and domicile of the player on a reliable way during the registration process or before the player starts playing.

Registration process by using personal e-banking credentials

To be able to play customer needs to have:

- 18+ years of age
- Finnish bank account
- Finnish social security number
- Permanent address in Finland

Customer Identification

- Needs to be executed before any gaming activity or monetary transactions. No free game or "play-money game" possibility before registration
- Registration by using personal e-banking credentials (TUPAS)
- GUARENTEED: One customer / one gaming account / Finnish banking account / = **No multiple accounts**
- During registration process player needs to set both daily and monthly loss limits – limits covers all gaming
- Note: European Parliament resolution on online gambling in the Internal Market (15.11.2011):
Item 27: "Calls for effective methods to be used to tackle problem gambling, inter alia by means of gambling bans and **compulsory limits on expenditure over a particular period, albeit set by the customer himself**"

Customer Verification

- Up-to-date and real-time data from National Public Register with (TUPAS)
- Verification of age, home address and status of custody (Population Information System database)
- Note: Commission Action Plan on Online Gambling (COM 2012 / 596):
Paragraph 2.3.2: "Preventive protection measures should be aimed at **precluding minors access to gambling content**"

Customer Authentication

- Weekly update / checking = all changes in addresses, custody and other requirements set to the customership
- Money transactions and changes in Gaming account details are made by using e-banking credentials

Registration process by using Population Information System

- Information given by a player is checked by using Population Information System (PIS).
- PIS returns: Social Security Number, current last name and first names, permanent home address, permanent foreign address, place of residence, age, dead yes/no and mother tongue.
- All player accounts are checked against PIS on regular basis => dead players and players who have moved abroad are removed from customer base.

Online gambling in Finland

According to Finnish Population Prevalence Survey:

- harmful effects of gambling have been decreasing and
- the amount of money used for gambling among problem gamblers has been decreasing.