

Question for written answer E-003529/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Establishment of an EU gambling self-exclusion register

Gambling is legal, but it can have detrimental effects on the public health of consumers in the EU and lead to an addiction to gambling with all its attendant problems. In that respect, national self-exclusion registers are an effective tool with which to protect members of the public who volunteer their personal details for purposes of their self-exclusion.

In 2014 the Commission recommended¹ that national self-exclusion registers be established for gamblers, with gambling operators given access to them. However, in spite of these recommendations and attempts to improve exchange of information², registers of this kind only exist at present in 15 Member States.

There has been a significant rise in online gambling and in new kinds of addiction to gambling. In view of this and the importance of ensuring all consumers in the single market are protected to the same degree and that their specific needs in situations where they are vulnerable are addressed³:

1. Will the Commission undertake an assessment of its recommendations⁴?
2. Will the Commission set up an EU gambling self-exclusion register to make self-exclusion possible throughout the EU for both traditional and online forms of gambling, irrespective of place of residence and the Member State in which the gaming licence is held?

¹ Commission Recommendation of 14 July 2014 on principles for the protection of consumers and players of online gambling services and for the prevention of minors from gambling online.

² Commission Implementing Decision of 4 April 2018 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards a European standard on reporting in support of supervision of online gambling services by the gambling regulatory authorities of the Member States (C(2018) 1815 final).

³ Commission Communication to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'New Consumer Agenda'.

⁴ Commission Recommendation of 14 July 2014 on principles for the protection of consumers and players of online gambling services and for the prevention of minors from gambling online.