



PRESS STATEMENT

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ESSA statement regarding the IOC's readiness to increase cooperation with the betting industry

Brussels, 1 July 2010 – The European Sports Security Association (ESSA) welcomes the declarations of IOC President Jacques Rogge on the occasion of the IOC extraordinary plenary meeting in Switzerland last week. Jacques Rogge spoke in favour of an increased cooperation between sports bodies, regulators, governments and the licensed betting industry in a bid to safeguard integrity in sport.

Mr Rogge's comments, advocating greater cooperation through education and information sharing among stakeholders, are entirely consistent with the actions taken by ESSA to help ensure that the licensed, regulated betting industry remains at the forefront of tackling the problem of irregular betting.

Since the creation of its early warning system in 2005, ESSA has been working closely with sport associations, including the IOC, and public authorities to keep sports free from betting-related corruption.

In April this year, ESSA built on its reputation as an early warning system for irregular betting patterns by launching a code of conduct for athletes, with the aim of providing grass-roots education on all issues surrounding the integrity of sport in connection with betting. Working with the EU Athletes and the European Gaming and Betting Association (EGBA), the code of conduct covers a large proportion of the IOC's recommendations by setting out a number of guiding principles for athletes. These principles include players not betting on themselves or their opponent and how they should handle sensitive information.

Mr Rogge rightly acknowledges that the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2010 Vancouver Olympics both passed without any incidence of match-fixing thanks, in no small part, to the IOC's own early warning monitoring system and the efforts of the licensed, regulated betting industry through initiatives such as ESSA.

However, modern sport is not just blighted by betting related match-fixing but also incidences of non-betting related scandals. Non-betting related scandals over the past year have included the Singapore Formula One race in 2008, when the Renault team acted illegally by ordering a driver to crash his car in order to help his colleague win a race and a handball scandal in Germany in March 2009 when a referee was found to have accepted bribes to influence the outcome of a match. Regrettably the list of non-betting related scandals in sport is long and growing.

ESSA believes that the problem of betting-related match-fixing should be regarded and confronted holistically along with the other threats to integrity that the modern sporting world faces. We look forward to working with the IOC towards a genuine global solution to these threats.

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About ESSA

The European Sports Security Association (ESSA) was established in 2005 by the leading online sports book operators in Europe to monitor any irregular betting patterns or possible insider betting from within each sport. To achieve this goal ESSA implemented an early warning system between its members that highlights any suspicious betting activity. The Early Warning System allows ESSA to work with the sports regulators and their disciplinary and legal departments, ensuring that when an alert is given the regulator is informed immediately which may prevent the possibility of any game manipulation on a given event. So far, ESSA has signed Memorandums of Understanding with FIFA, UEFA, EPFL, The FA, DFB, ATP, ITF, WTA and has established close relations with the IOC and many other sports regulators. For more information on ESSA, please go to the ESSA website <http://www.eu-ssa.org> .

About the Sports Betting Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct was launched in April 2010 by the EU Athletes, ESSA, and the EGBA. It is part of a broader educational campaign aimed at helping professional sports people understand and deal with issues surrounding the integrity of sport and betting. The Code of Conduct forms an important pillar in ESSA's ongoing work to uphold integrity in sport, and is recognition of the important role education can play in deterring participants from bringing their sport into disrepute.

To view the Code of Conduct, click here: <http://www.eu-ssa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=M61TE32nmHE%3d&tabid=36&mid=372>