



PRESS RELEASE

THE EUROPEAN SPORTS SECURITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTED TO TACKLING INSIDER BETTING

Brussels, 27 July 2009: The European Sports Security Association (ESSA) today announced that they and their members were committed to working with sport federations to combat the menace of match fixing and game manipulation.

The announcement follows legal proceedings taken in Florida by five Italian tennis players against the ATP.

"ESSA and its members have a Memorandum of Understanding in place with a number of sport regulators, which include UEFA, FIFA, the ATP and the IOC amongst others" said Khalid Ali, the Secretary General of ESSA. "Where players and officials are forbidden to bet on their own game, or in some cases their own sport, we will pass information to sports governing bodies about insider betting. Our members have a responsibility to work hand in hand with sport bodies to protect the integrity of sport" he added.

ESSA is a non-profit organisation whose members are the leading online sports book operators in Europe. ESSA was initiated by the German "soccer/referee bribe scandal" (the "Hoyzer affair") in January 2005, when the discussion about the possibility of manipulation in the betting "industry" had become a topic of discussion concerning the transparency of on/offline betting. As a result the objective of ESSA is to offer customers a fair sports betting product by preventing insider betting and betting fraud.

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