



PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT: Europol Investigation

Brussels, 5 February – The European Sports Security Association (ESSA), the private betting industry's integrity body, welcomes Europol's investigation into football match-fixing and is willing to support those ongoing investigations if approached by either the law enforcement or regulatory authorities.

ESSA's members, which comprise Europe's leading licensed, regulated bookmakers, were not exposed to the criminal syndicate who were placing bets primarily on the Asian market. The licensed, regulated betting industry in Europe has worked extremely hard and invested significant resources to minimise the threat to sports' integrity from betting-related match-fixing. Not only has ESSA established an early warning system, since 2005, to monitor and report suspicious betting, it has also enhanced communications with sports governing bodies and regulators and initiated educational programmes for players.

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 department, 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. ESSA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of sport federations including FIFA and the IOC, as well as regulatory bodies such as the UK Gambling Commission, the Gibraltar Gambling Commissioner and the Malta Lotteries and Gaming Authority.

For more information on ESSA and its activities please visit ESSA's website at www.eu-ssa.org