



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Khalid Ali, Secretary General ESSA

tel. +32 (0)22 567565

e-mail: ka@eu-ssa.org

ESSA Statement on the European Parliament's Resolution on Match-Fixing and Corruption in Sport

Brussels, 14 March: The European Sports Security Association (ESSA), the licensed betting industry's integrity body, welcomes the emphasis that the European Parliament, through its adoption of a Resolution on match-fixing and corruption in sport, places on sports integrity and calls on all stakeholders to work together to ensure that this remains the highest priority.

The European Parliament's Resolution recognises many of the issues and concerns that the licensed betting industry has been raising for over a decade. Indeed, many of the proposed actions represent policies that the betting sector has taken a leadership role in, such as cross-sector cooperation through information sharing arrangements with sporting bodies and European regulators to a pioneering education programme run with the EU Athletes and partly funded by the European Commission, which will reach out to 15,000 athletes across Europe over the next 18 months.

The resolution also calls on sports to put in place appropriate procedures to address match-fixing, including the enforcement of suitable participant rules and sanctions on players betting on their own games. It is clear that from the recent Europol announcement that poor governance of some sports has allowed organised crime to infiltrate the sector. This was clearly illustrated by the FIFPRO study in 2012 which found that there was an association between a lack of salary payments and players' vulnerability to match-fixers.

- END -

About ESSA

ESSA (The European Sports Security Association) 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 sports 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.

ESSA's members include: Bet-at-home, Bet365, Betclix, bwin.party, BetVictor didgibet, Expekt, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Goldbet, Interwetten, Ladbrokes, Paddy Power, Sportingbet, Stan James, Stanleybet, Unibet and William Hill.

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

