

ESSA and ARJEL agree integrity partnership ahead of Euro 2016

Brussels, 8 June 2016: The regulated betting industry's integrity body ESSA and French gambling regulatory authority ARJEL have signed an integrity agreement ahead of the Euro 2016 championships. The agreement will allow ESSA and ARJEL to exchange information with each other on suspicious betting. The partnership protocol covers a range of sports and competitions and demonstrates both parties' ongoing commitment to protecting sport, consumers and regulated betting markets from the threat of match-fixing.

Mike O'Kane, Chairman of ESSA, said: "We are delighted to be working with ARJEL; this agreement represents an important milestone in establishing a network of international information sharing agreements between regulators and responsible regulated betting operators. One of our key objectives has been to establish cross-sector partnerships as the most effective means of tackling betting related corruption in sport."

Charles Coppolani, Chairman of ARJEL, stated: "The exchange of information and international cooperation with betting companies is a key part of the Council of Europe Convention to protect sport and tackle corruption. This agreement strengthens our betting integrity framework ahead of one of the biggest sporting events in the world, taking place on French soil. Sports betting integrity is paramount and ARJEL is committed to protecting that ethos and to working with responsible stakeholders such as ESSA."

ESSA holds positions on match-fixing policy forums at the European Commission, Council of Europe and the IOC. It recently released its Q1 2016 integrity statistics (see [here](#)), and is involved in a number of activities aimed at addressing betting related match-fixing in sport. These include a player education programme with EU Athletes (see [here](#)) and an international project, entitled "Keep Crime out of Sport", led by the Council of Europe and funded by the European Commission (see [here](#)).

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About ESSA:

ESSA represents many of the world's biggest regulated sports betting operators, serving over 40 million consumers in the EU alone. Concerned regulated bookmakers created ESSA in 2005 to monitor betting markets and alert sports and regulators to suspicious betting patterns. The goal was and is to protect consumers from potential fraud caused by manipulating sporting events. ESSA helps to combat this with evidence-based intelligence it provides to sporting bodies and regulators.

Every year, our members invest over €50m in compliance and internal security systems in order to help combat fraud. They also give back to sport and society by spending €400m on sponsorship around the world - €250m of that in Europe alone. This increases substantially when advertising,

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photo and video-streaming rights are taken into consideration. ESSA also co-funds a player education programme with EU Athletes that reaches out to 15,000 athletes across 10 sports in 13 EU countries.

ESSA is the regulated betting sector's representative body at national and international match-fixing policy forums and holds positions on working groups at the European Commission, Council of Europe and the IOC. The organisation is continually reassessing and improving its alert and reporting systems and has established information sharing arrangements with a range of sports bodies and regulatory authorities. The latter includes: the British Gambling Commission, Malta Gaming Authority (MGA), Alderney Gambling Control Commission and the Gibraltar Gambling Commissioner.

ESSA members include: the ABB, Betclix, Bet-at-Home, Betsson, Bet365, BetVictor, Betway, bwinparty, Digibet, Expekt, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Interwetten, Ladbrokes, Paddy Power, Sky Bet, Sporting Index, Stanleybet, Unibet and William Hill. For more information see ESSA's website at <http://www.eu-ssa.org/> or visit us on twitter: [@ESSA Betting](https://twitter.com/ESSA_Betting)

About ARJEL:

The French Autorité de régulation des jeux en ligne, usually referred to as ARJEL, is a gambling authority specifically designed to regulate online gambling in France. It was created by Article 34 of Law No 2010-476 (The French Gambling Act) of 12 May 2010. ARJEL's main roles are to:

- issue approvals and ensure compliance by operators
- protect the vulnerable and fight against addiction
- ensure the safety and fairness of gambling operations
- fight against illegal sites
- fight against fraud and money laundering

For more information go to <http://www.arjel.fr/>

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