

## ESSA: 41 CASES OF SUSPICIOUS BETTING IN Q2

**Brussels, 19 July:** The second quarter of 2016 saw 41 cases of suspicious betting activity reported to the relevant gambling regulatory and sports governing authorities by betting integrity body ESSA, which represents many of the largest regulated international sports betting operators.

Tennis accounted for 34 (or 83%) of the 41 cases identified, followed by football with four and one each in snooker, handball and beach volleyball. Europe led the geographical location of the events where suspicious betting was identified with 24 cases, followed by Asia and Africa with five each, three each for North America and South America, and one case having no specific country of origin.

Commenting in the report's editorial, ESSA Chairman Mike O'Kane outlined some of the actions that ESSA has embarked on during the quarter, including concluding integrity information sharing deals with the French and Lithuanian gambling regulators and a trial integrity partnership with Sportradar focused specifically on tennis. A number of new ESSA members have also been announced, further widening the association's global alert and reporting system.

The latest report also includes an article by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU), which covers some of the improvements that the sport is seeking to make and the comprehensive review of its integrity approach currently underway. With alerts for tennis continuing to far outweigh those for other sports, and with those attempts to manipulate tennis focused on defrauding betting operators and consumers, the progress and outcome of the review is of particular interest to ESSA and its members.

"It is quite right that the tennis authorities seek to conduct a thorough investigation of its integrity procedures. We must, quite reasonably, give the sport some breathing space to identify and implement any necessary changes, but changes are clearly needed and the sooner the better for us all. In the meantime, ESSA will continue to support the sport in this important endeavour, which will hopefully soon result in the delivery of a best practice model that others will follow," O'Kane stated.

ESSA holds positions on match-fixing policy forums at the European Commission, Council of Europe and the IOC. It is also involved in a number of activities aimed at addressing match-fixing, including a player education programme with EU Athletes ([here](#)) and an international project, entitled "Keep Crime out of Sport", led by the Council of Europe and funded by the European Commission ([here](#)).

A copy of the full ESSA Q2 2016 integrity report and previous reports can be accessed [here](#).

END

### About ESSA:

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Khalid Ali,  
Secretary General  
Sports Betting Integrity  
ka@eu-ssa.org  
www.eu-ssa.org



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 sporting bodies and national 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 and photo and video-streaming rights are taken into consideration. ESSA and its members also co-fund an education programme on gambling with EU Athletes that reaches out to 15,000 athletes/players across at least ten different sports in 13 EU countries.

ESSA continues to play a key role as 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 International Olympic Committee (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.

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, Stoiximan, 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)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Khalid Ali,  
Secretary General  
Sports Betting Integrity  
ka@eu-ssa.org  
www.eu-ssa.org