

## ESSA WELCOMES PARLIAMENTARY MOTION TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF SPORT

**11 June, Brussels** – Today, the European Parliament approved a joint motion for a resolution promoting the adoption of good governance practices in sport to protect it from the adverse impacts of corruption and fraud, including money laundering and match-fixing. That motion is welcomed by ESSA, which represents many of the largest regulated betting operators in the world and who are the victims of sports fraud such as match-fixing.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) agreed the joint motion for a resolution following the recent revelations of alleged high-profile corruption at senior levels in FIFA, the worldwide governing body for football, and have underlined the need for all international sports organisations to have transparent, accountable and democratic structures in place.

Highlighting the importance of good governance principles to the integrity of sport and in preventing corruption, MEPs stressed that: *“corruption and money laundering are intrinsically linked and a large number of Member States have been affected by match-fixing and other financial crimes often related to criminal organisations operating on an international scale”*.

ESSA Chairman Mike O’Kane welcomed the European Parliament’s stand against corruption in sport and the associated negative impacts on regulated betting companies and consumers who are the victims of related fraud such as match-fixing, he said *“ESSA has campaigned for some years on the importance of establishing transparent and accountable governance in sport as a fundamental measure to protect the integrity of sporting events.”*

*“Corrupters will continue to prey on sports with poor governance and financial management structures, which is unfortunately widespread within the sector. ESSA supports the position of the European Parliament that ‘if not addressed urgently and properly, corruption may continue to undermine trust in sports institutions and threaten the integrity of sport as a whole’ and will also continue to weaken the fight against match-fixers”,* O’Kane continued.

ESSA and its members remain ready to engage with other responsible stakeholders to raise awareness about sports fraud and to combat match-fixing. The organisation plays a key role as the regulated betting sector’s representative body at international match-fixing policy forums and holds positions on working groups at the European Commission, Council of Europe and the IOC. ESSA has long adopted a transparent and evidence-based approach to betting integrity policymaking and regularly publishes integrity statistics covering its members’ regulated betting markets. The latest report, covering Q1 2015, can be found [here](#).

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## Notes to Editors

The European Parliament motion for a resolution can be found [here](#).

## About ESSA

ESSA is a key player in the fight against betting related match-fixing. It 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 member 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 members include the ABB, Betclac, Bet-at-Home, Betsson, Bet365, BetVictor, Betway, bwinparty, Digibet, Expekt, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Interwetten, Ladbrokes, PaddyPower, PMU, Sky Bet, Stanleybet, Unibet and William Hill.

For more information see ESSA's website at [www.eu-ssa.org](http://www.eu-ssa.org) or visit us on twitter: @ESSA\_Betting

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