

ESSA REPORTS 130 CASES OF SUSPICIOUS BETTING IN 2016

Brussels, 31 January: International betting integrity body ESSA reported 130 cases of suspicious betting activity during 2016, with 41 cases in the final quarter (Q4). Tennis dominated 2016 with 103 cases being reported to the Tennis Integrity Unit, followed by football with 16 cases reported to the relevant governing body.

ESSA Chairman, Mike O’Kane, said: “The figures show that the dangers from the misuse of insider information and match-fixing persist for betting operators. As the sector’s representative body on betting integrity issues, ESSA continues to meet with key stakeholders to discuss practical and proportionate actions. We hold positions on a number of major betting policy working groups and match-fixing programmes to do just that.”

He added: “As with previous years, we expect 2017 to entail challenges to the commercial activities of our sector. ESSA will continue to be an ardent and vocal supporter of responsible regulated operators and utilise our alert system to protect our growing list of members, consumers and sports from betting related corruption. We intend to progress a number of constructive actions in this area during 2017 and in particular work closer with sports governing bodies and rights holders on more collaborative relationships.”

From a geographical perspective, Europe posted the highest number of alerts in 2016, with 71 cases relating to sporting events taking place in that continent. Tennis made up the majority of those cases with 45 of the 71 alerts. Tennis also accounted for 24 of the 25 alerts across all sporting events in Asia. For football, the cases predominantly occurred in European based matches with 15 of the 16 alerts recorded there. A more detailed breakdown of the statistics can be found in ESSA’s 2016 report [here](#).

ESSA holds positions on match-fixing policy forums at the European Commission, Council of Europe and the IOC. It is driving a number of activities aimed at addressing match-fixing, including 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 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: 888sport, ABB, Bet-at-Home, Betclix, Betdaq, Betsson, BetStars, Bet365, BetVictor, Betway, bwin, Digibet, Expekt, Fonbet, Interwetten, Ladbrokes Coral, Paddy Power Betfair, Sky Bet, Sportium, Sporting Index, Sportingbet, Stanleybet, Stoiximan, Unibet, 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)

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