

ESSA and Lithuanian regulator strike integrity deal

Brussels, 15 June 2016: The regulated betting industry's integrity body ESSA and the Gaming Control Authority under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority) have agreed an information sharing agreement to guard against betting related corruption. The cooperation arrangement will see the exchange of information concerning any suspicious betting identified on ESSA members' regulated markets that falls within the Lithuanian regulator's operational remit.

The move further increases ESSA's international information sharing network with gambling regulatory authorities, with this agreement adding to the organisation's existing partnerships with: the British Gambling Commission, French regulator ARJEL, Malta Gaming Authority (MGA), Alderney Gambling Control Commission and the Gibraltar Gambling Commissioner.

“This is another very positive development in the fight against betting related corruption. The Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority has shown a great willingness and desire to cooperate with ESSA and its responsible regulated operators. We have the same objectives and I hope that others will join us to prevent fixers from corrupting sport, defrauding betting operators and cheating consumers” stated Khalid Ali, Secretary General of ESSA.

Virginijus Dauksys, Director of the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority stated: “One of the core goals of the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority is to protect the interests and rights of players and operators. Match-fixing and betting related corruption presents a clear threat to meeting that objective and one which we are determined to tackle. We recognise the value in working with a committed partner such as ESSA to help us to deliver on that aim and to meeting a common danger with a united approach.”

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

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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, 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 the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority:

Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority is the state budgetary institution, taking part in the enforcement of state policy in the scope of gaming and enforcing gaming operation supervision according to the order established in legal acts. The purpose of the activity of the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority is to ensure fair and transparent gaming activity and to protect rights and legal interests of gamblers.

Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority is also responsible for supervision and control of the organizing of National lotteries. The main task of the institution is to supervise and control the operation of this activity with the purpose to protect interests and rights of players and of operators. These aims and tasks of the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority are established in the Gaming Law of the Republic of Lithuania and in the Law on Lotteries of the Republic of Lithuania, regulating the mentioned activities in the Republic of Lithuania. One of the main priority trends of the Lithuanian Gaming Control Authority is to ensure proper activity of the institution enforcing the provisions of legal acts regulating gaming and national lotteries also to ensure the results-based activity.

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