

ESSA RELEASES Q1 2016 SPORTS BETTING INTEGRITY STATS

Brussels, 15 April: During the first quarter of 2016, 11 instances of suspicious betting patterns were reported to the relevant authorities by sports betting integrity body ESSA, which represents many of the largest regulated international sports betting operators. Of those 11 cases, 9 were identified in tennis, with one each in basketball and football. From a geographical perspective, there were five cases identified in Asia, three in Europe, two in Africa and one in South America.

The release of the Q1 2016 integrity report, which also includes articles on sports governance and betting integrity issues by the Council of Europe and Sports Integrity Initiative, coincides with the annual EU sports integrity day, endorsed through social media as #EUSportIntegrityDay. The integrity campaign, which is open to everyone who is committed to fighting match-fixing, is designed to:

- raise awareness amongst stakeholders and everyone who loves sport;
- re-inforce the key education messages about sports betting integrity;
- showcase good practice in the fight against match-fixing; and
- demonstrate a public commitment to preventing match-fixing from harming sport.

#EUSportIntegrityDay is promoted by EU Athletes, a federation of European players associations and athlete unions, which manages a player education programme established in 2010 with the regulated betting sector, including ESSA. The programme recently received a boost in funding from the European Commission ensuring that it continues for a further two years until the end of 2017.

More information on the #EUSportIntegrityDay can be found [here](#) and the player education programme [here](#).

The ESSA Q1 2016 betting integrity report and previous reports can be accessed [here](#).

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About ESSA:

ESSA is a key player in the fight against betting related match-fixing and represents the regulated betting sector at national and international match-fixing policy forums, holding positions on working groups at the European Commission, Council of Europe and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 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, 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

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