



### **ESSA statement: BBC and BuzzFeed News tennis corruption report**

**17 January 2016, Brussels** – We are aware of the report and leaked evidence that suggests potential criminal elements and corrupt sportspeople have been seeking to manipulate tennis. Clearly such activity would be of great concern to the sports governing body and betting operators.

During 2015, whilst tennis constituted the largest proportion of suspicious betting alerts identified by ESSA members it should be noted that the vast majority of tennis events are fair.

As the industry body that represents many of the major regulated gambling companies on sports betting integrity matters, ESSA has been passing on any suspicious betting alerts to the tennis integrity team and cooperating as appropriate in providing relevant evidence. Anything that undermines the confidence and integrity of sport is not only damaging for sport itself but is potentially serious for the betting industry too. It is for this reason that ESSA continues to support tennis and any other sport in supporting the implementation of good governance and integrity regimes.

The ESSA chairman Mike O'Kane says "the issue of sports betting integrity is an important one and ESSA and its partner sports are committed to ensuring that sports participants and betting customers have confidence in the sport they enjoy. We will continue to liaise closely with the tennis integrity unit and all other sports governing bodies who have any concerns with integrity. In addition the recently launched Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan which is fully supported by ESSA and its betting operator members provides a guide to reducing the risk of sports betting integrity issues."

ESSA integrity reports for the first 3 quarters of 2015 can be found on our website here <http://www.eu-ssa.org/documents/>. "

#### **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**

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





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, Betclac, 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 [www.eu-ssa.org](http://www.eu-ssa.org) or visit us on twitter: @ESSA\_Betting

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Khalid Ali,  
Secretary General  
Sports Betting Integrity  
[ka@eu-ssa.org](mailto:ka@eu-ssa.org)  
[www.eu-ssa.org](http://www.eu-ssa.org)

