

ESSA Q2 INTEGRITY REPORT: TENNIS DOMINATES SUSPICIOUS BETTING ALERTS

15 July, Brussels - ESSA today issued its second quarterly integrity report which details the level of suspicious betting activity detected on the markets of some of the world's major regulated betting operators. Tennis constituted the highest number of suspicious alerts in Q2, continuing a trend seen in the previous quarter.

Overall, during the second quarter of 2015, ESSA members raised 73 alerts of which, after detailed examination, 23 were found to be suspicious and were reported to the relevant regulatory body for further investigation. Tennis (19) and football (4) dominated the suspicious alerts identified in Q2.

"A number of high-profile scandals have sadly dominated sport since the publication of our first quarterly integrity report," said Mike O'Kane, Chairman of ESSA. "These relate to suspected match-fixing, most notably in Italy and Spain, and also wider corruption in sport with the revelations of alleged high-profile corrupt practices at senior levels in world football's governing body, FIFA".

"The two issues are, in a broad sense, linked and good governance practices in sport are an important barometer of its overall integrity level", O'Kane continued. "Whilst we have not seen an upsurge in alerts during Q2, concerns remain regarding certain sports. It is my firm belief that corrupters will continue to prey on sports with poor governance and financial management structures, which is unfortunately widespread in the sector, and that this will continue to weaken the fight against fixers."

ESSA supported the recent European Parliamentary motion for a resolution, following the FIFA scandal, which underlined the need for all international sports to have transparent, accountable and democratic structures in place (view PR [here](#)). ESSA's Q2 integrity report also includes an article by MEP Marc Tarabella, co-chair of the European Parliament's recently established Intergroup on Sport, who outlines the group's interest and his own views on betting integrity issues.

In particular, Tarabella states that: *"Ensuring the integrity of sport is fundamental to its future. It is not only about corruption and match-fixing, however; there is also doping, money laundering and so on. Unfortunately, some sports have ignored these issues and sport's image as a whole has been blackened as a result. As the European Parliament's resolution condemning the situation within FIFA shows, there is widespread support among MEPs for change across the sector."*

Eric Konings, Sports Betting Integrity Officer at Unibet, also provides an insight into the process of pricing betting markets and the importance of maintaining the integrity of sports events in the report.

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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). It represents many of the world's biggest regulated sports betting operators, serving over 40 million consumers in the EU alone, and is continually reassessing and improving its reporting and early warning systems.

END

Notes to Editors

About ESSA alerts:

A betting pattern is deemed unusual or suspicious when it involves unexpected activity with atypical bet sizes or volumes that continue – even after significant price corrections have been made in order to deter such activity in the market. A betting pattern is only confirmed as suspicious after ESSA has made detailed enquiries with all of its members to eliminate any prospect that the unusual patterns could be for legitimate reasons, such as pricing the market incorrectly.

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 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, PaddyPower, PMU, Sky Bet, Stanleybet, Unibet and William Hill.

For more information see ESSA's website at www.eu-ssa.org or visit us on twitter: @ESSA_Betting

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