

ONLINE GAMBLING: COMMISSION REFERS SWEDEN TO THE CJEU FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EU LAW

Brussels, 16 October 2014

Today the European Commission referred Sweden twice to the CJEU for its persistent failure to comply with EU Law in cases on online betting and poker services. It is a breakthrough decision because this is the first time that the EC has taken a Member State to Court over its online gambling legislation. A number of other pending cases are ready to be referred and in November 2013 new infringement proceedings were additionally opened.

Maarten Haijer, Secretary General of EGBA said: *“EGBA fully supports and commends the EC for taking this decision. This is a breakthrough that shows a strong commitment to upholding fundamental European freedoms. Sweden was given many years to bring its legislation into conformity but regrettably there was little commitment to change.”*

He also added: *“EGBA fully expects other Member States to soon be referred to the Court. There is a long list of pending cases that are ready to be taken to Court. No Member State regardless of its size should be exempt from scrutiny. However, EGBA stands ready to support any Member State that now decides to reform their legislation to ensure compliance with EU rules.”*

Please see link to European Commission press release on the case: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1150_en.htm

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About EGBA

The EGBA is an association of leading European gaming and betting operators [Bet-at-home](#), [BetClic](#), [bwin.party](#), [Digibet](#), [Expekt](#), and [Unibet](#). The Gibraltar Betting and Gaming Association ([GBGA](#)) is an affiliate member of EGBA. EGBA is a Brussels-based non-profit association. It promotes the rights of more than 20 million adult European citizens to participate in online gambling of their choice in an informed, regulated, safe and secure environment. While online gambling remains a smaller part of the total gambling market (15%), based upon innovation, technology and digital consumer demand, online gambling transformed itself into an industry champion of the European digital economy with material spin-over effects towards other digital economies and strong synergies with sports. EGBA members have invested more than €600M into digital security and contributed to sports with more than €800M, mainly via sponsorship deal and purchasing innovative sports streaming rights.

For more information, please contact us at: www.egba.eu or egba@egba.eu

Background:

In November 2013 the EC issued 2 'reasoned opinions' against Sweden and a further one was announced in July 2013. This move is one in a series of actions by the EC against both Sweden and other Member States that follows repeated calls from the European Parliament for the Commission to act as the Guardian of the Treaties. It further follows a large number of cases in which legal clarifications by the Court of Justice on how the Treaty applies to national gambling legislation have been delivered.