

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sports Integrity Conference as part of the International Sports Convention 2016

**Key stakeholders call for the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sport Competitions, welcoming the significant contribution of Lotteries to sports integrity.**

**Lausanne/Brussels, 7 December 2016:** Major stakeholders in the fight against match fixing, convened in Geneva today for the Sports Integrity Conference, which was part of the two-day International Sports Convention 2016 (ISC) and was supported by the European Lotteries (EL) and the World Lottery Association (WLA). More than 20 international speakers, of a diverse background, discussed the state of on-going work, facts and figures, and lessons learned from past cases and investigations, as well as forward-looking strategies.

The stakeholders agreed that the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions is now essential, and even more states need to start developing their national platforms. The significant contribution of Lotteries in the fight against match-fixing through the provision of information on irregular betting patterns via their risk management systems and the establishment of the Global Lottery Monitoring System (GLMS) was highlighted and welcomed.

Commenting on the Sports Integrity Conference, Chairman of EL Sport Committee, Torbjørn Almlid, noted *"It is clear that the setting up of national platforms, cooperation and sharing of information among all relevant stakeholders, as also required by the Macolin Convention, are vital for the fight against the phenomenon. Lotteries all over Europe are already actively contributing towards this direction. As highlighted by many speakers, though, illegal betting operators pose obstacles and undermine the efficient information sharing among the national actors and it is vital that states take concrete measures against illegal betting."*

**ENDS**

**LINK**

[Council of Europe Convention on Manipulation of Sport Competitions](#)

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*European Lotteries (EL) is the European umbrella organisation of national lotteries operating games of chance for the public benefit. EL has members from 45 European countries including all 28 EU Member States. The association's EU members contribute more than 20 billion € p.a. to the state budgets and the funding of sport, culture, social projects, research and other causes of general interest. Unlike many commercial online gambling operators, EL members only offer gambling and*

*betting services in the jurisdictions in which they are licensed by the respective national government.*