

PRESS RELEASE

EL welcomes the EU Work Plan for Sport 2017–2020

Brussels/Lausanne, 23 May 2017. The main sports policy priorities of next years were defined on May 23 by the EU Sports Ministers, in the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports committee (EYCS) of the Council. The three main priorities set for 2017–2020 are *sports integrity, economic dimension of sport* and *sport and society*, whereas the working structures foreseen include expert groups, conferences and seminars, as well as cluster meetings.

Welcoming the fact that the priorities in the EU Sports policy Agenda include the economic dimension of sport and the societal aspects of sports, EL Secretary General, Arjan van't Veer states *“EL fully supports the focus on the economic dimension and societal role of sport. Fully recognising the societal role of grassroots sport, we would highlight that importance needs to be attached to its sustainable financing and the factors that might jeopardise it, like illegal betting, as also reflected in the Recommendations of the High level group on Grassroots Sport.”*

Arjan van't Veer states further *“Given our strong involvement in the fight against match-fixing, through our commitment to responsible operations, we are also pleased that sports integrity remains high on the EU sports policy Agenda. Considering the significance of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sport competitions, we trust that there will be a focus on the support of Member–States towards the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, which hopefully will enter into force shortly”.*

Having been very much involved in the EU Work Plan 2014–2017, with an Observer Status in the Expert groups Match—Fixing (XG MF) and Economic Dimension of Sport (XC ECO), EL looks forward to contributing once again to the working structures of the EU Work Plan for Sport 2017–2020 with its expertise and constructive input.

Links:

- The full text of the EU Work Plan for Sport 2017–2020 can be accessed [here](#)
- The text of the EL Code of Conduct on Sports betting can be accessed [here](#)
- The website of the Global Lottery Monitoring System (GLMS) can be accessed [here](#)
- The text of the Council of Europe Convention of the manipulation of Sport Competitions can be accessed [here](#)
- The full report of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport can be accessed [here](#).

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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.