

**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

**Concerns about public order and consumer protection are best dealt with by controls and regulation at the level of the Member State – EL understands European Commission’s closure of infringement cases in the field of gambling**

*Brussels, 7 December 2017* – The European Lotteries Association (EL) takes note that the European Commission has closed the open infringement cases concerning online gambling.

EL Secretary General Arjan van ‘t Veer: “It makes sense for the European Commission to close cases when it is indeed no longer needed to pursue them. Concerns about public order and consumer protection are best dealt with by controls and regulation at the level of the Member State. “

EL recalls that Member States have a wide discretionary margin in determining their gambling policy on their territory. They have the right to decide on restrictive measures for public order and consumer protection, in light of the national/regional specific features.

It is therefore welcomed that the Commission in its statement today acknowledges the broader political legitimacy of the public interest objectives that Member States are pursuing when regulating gambling services.

The association also stresses the primary competence of Member States to regulate the gambling sector on their territory, as has been confirmed by the Council and the case-law from the EU Court.

**ENDS**

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### **About The European Lotteries**

The European Lotteries (EL) is the European umbrella organisation of national lotteries operating games of chance for the public benefit. EL has members from more than 40 European countries including all EU Member States. The association's EU members contribute more than 20 billion EUR 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.