



THE
EUROPEAN
LOTTERIES

FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN LOTTERIES

The European Lotteries Association (EL) is the European umbrella organisation of national lotteries from 44 European countries, including all the EU Member States, operating games of chance off- and online for the public benefit. EL members in most Member States provide their games online. EL members in most Member States offer sports betting services

EL members have different legal structures, from state-owned to private companies. The range of games offered varies from Member State to Member State. All EL members have in common that they offer lottery products and possible other gambling activities only in the jurisdiction in which they are licensed by their respective national government. Together, EL members employ more than 40 000 people and create more than 300 000 jobs through indirect employment.

EL and its members furthermore represent and defend a specific model: they act on common values and principles which are based on a societal consensus and are in line with the ones expressed by the Council and the European Parliament and aim at contributing to society. The EL members represent a system in which the state ensures that the proceeds from gambling are used for the benefit of society as a whole, rather than being a source of private profit only.

- **SUBSIDIARITY:** Member States hold the primary competence to organise and regulate gambling activities.
- **PRECAUTION:** Players need to be protected from harmful and illegal gambling offerings through effective and efficient law enforcement. In light of the risks inherent to any gambling ac-

tivity, EL advocates that governments take a very cautious approach with regard to the regulation of games in their markets.

- **SOLIDARITY:** European Lotteries generate more than 20 billion EUR per year for society in contributions to state budgets and the financing of good causes. This significant – and sustainable – contribution needs to be recognised and taken into account in any discussions at the European level.
- **INTEGRITY:** As the historic partners of sport, EL members help protect it against threats from match fixing and other criminal activities.

BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES, EL AND ITS MEMBERS ADVOCATE THE FOLLOWING:

- Gambling is an economic activity of special nature which carries strong risks and should therefore not be subject to a sectoral harmonisation.
- Member States are best placed to regulate gambling in light of nation-specific cultural, social and historical factors and in order to protect consumers against the risks of addiction, fraud and money laundering entailed by gambling activities. They must therefore be in the driver's seat on any measures in the field of gambling in order to make them effective.
- The lotteries' contribution to society should be recognised and taken into account in any EU discussion on gambling, as the European Parliament and the Council already called for.
- Further action and measures are needed to protect sport integrity such as a common definition of sports fraud as a criminal offence at EU level and a common platform for the protection of sports integrity.