

EUROPEAN ROUND UP

DISCREPANCIES IN THE CREATION OF A COMMON EUROPEAN STANDARD ON GAMES OF CHANCE

The 27 countries of the European Union at a council meeting held in Brussels were unable to agree on the project for a European gambling standard.

The UK, Austria and Malta are the three countries who are putting up most opposition, against others, such as Spain, who suggested that work should continue.

The current EU presidency emphasises that striving towards common goals, particularly in the matter of control, will simplify the operation of the internal market. Those in favour of harmonising national legislations are stressing the need to continue analysing the peculiarities of the sector during the Czech and Swedish presidency of the European Union.



CASINO LISBON CONTRIBUTES TO CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Lisbon City Council has announced a series of projects totalling 43 million, including an Activities and Budgets Plan for 2009, to be financed by taxes paid by Lisbon Casino.

"We are honouring our 2006 promise that Casino Lisbon will play an important part in backing essential works in the city, particularly in the area of culture and heritage. This shows that the Casino is not only a reference in the city's cultural and

leisure offer, but also that we contribute decisively in the transformation of new areas of urban development", explained Mario Assis Ferreira, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Estoril Sol, owners of the Casino.



ALSART EXPANDS ITS BUSINESS IN ARMENIA

Alsart, the dynamic producer and distributor of video slot games and slot machines strengthens its position in Armenian market. Having signed a number of large-scale agreements, the management made the decision to open an office in the country.

"Entering the Armenian market is strategically important for us. We have researched market trends and client preferences and demands and now we have clear understanding of which products will become real hits", said Lyubov Loginova, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Alsart offers a complete range of gambling equipment and Casino accessories from the world's best-known brands – from slot machines and roulette to cards and chips.

Along with equipment supply, Alsart also provides consulting services and equips ready-to-operate slot halls.

For customer convenience there is a showroom exhibiting the most popular models of slot machines and Casino equipment where customers can be advised by qualified specialists and test all Alsart's new products.



Lyubov Loginova, Chairman of the Board of Directors

EGASA CONTINUES TO EXPAND THROUGHOUT CROATIA

Late last December, Spanish group Egasa inaugurated its third "Golden Sun" Casino in Croatia. The new establishment, in Zagreb, joins two others already operating very successfully in the capital and in Dubrovnik.

Golden Sun Casino Dubrovnik was the venue for the "Miss Model Croatia" competition, won by Adriana Brékaló, to whom Julián González de Bedoya, Egasa's Casinos Expansion Manager, awarded a painting by the great Croatian artist Danko Friscic and a Sargadelos ceramic figurine.

The group also plans to open a new Casino in Sarajevo in 2009, its first in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Julián González de Bedoya, Egasa's Casinos Expansion Manager, gives the winner a painting by great Croatian artist Danko Friscic

SUZO INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES ELIXIR SUCCESS IN HUNGARY

Suzo International is pleased to report that the leading poker table manufacturer in Hungary – PM Europe Ltd – has integrated Elixir's ShufflePro into its design. PM Europe Ltd is better known as Poker-Master. The company, headed by Andras Marton, was quickly convinced of both Elixir's product performance and Suzo International's service capabilities.

Suzo International's Joost van Egeraat comments: *"We gained the European rights for Elixir products barely a year ago and so we have been very busy introducing the Elixir range to the European Casino market. Poker Master is a young and innovative company and embraced the opportunity to trial the Elixir ShufflePro. The excellent results quickly convinced Poker Master. We place much emphasis on our sales and technical service. We are very pleased to be able to cite Poker Master as a customer for Elixir's ShufflePro".*



SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF GRAN CASINO DE CARTAGENA

In its first two years in operation, Gran Casino de Cartagena, a member of the Gran Madrid group, welcomed some 140,000 visitors, threw almost a million roulette balls, held 756,000 games of stud poker and dealt over 60,000 playing cards. The slots have paid out 8600 prizes, totalling over €4.1 million.

The favourite table games among guests are American Roulette (66.5%), followed by Poker (19%) and Blackjack (14.5%).

The Casino is located in the Mediterranean Business and Leisure Park and has become a firm favourite with Cartagenean society.



Jesus Marin, Casino Gran Madrid Gaming Manager; Pedro Masedo, Gran Casino de Cartagena Director; Pilar Barreiro, Cartagena Mayor; Inmaculada Garcia, Tax Councillor for the Murcia Region; and Angel Maria Escolano Belló, General Manager of the Gran Madrid Group, during the inauguration of Gran Casino Cartagena

GREAT SUCCESS FOR CASINO GRAN MADRID POKER TOURNAMENTS

Casino Gran Madrid continues to host a range of poker tournaments, attracting many players and celebrating many results. One of the most entertaining was the Texas Hold'em No Limit Freezeout held on the occasion of the Casino's 27th anniversary.

Over the past two years, these tournaments have attracted



over 2000 participants – quite a record.

In view of this success, the Casino has now inaugurated an International Poker Tournament Room. Unique in Europe, it is divided into three areas, a poker area, the tournament room itself and an exclusive slots area.

With this new 850 m² zone, the Casino will become one of the main points of reference for international gaming competitions.

TOP SHOWS AT CASINO GRAN MADRID

One of the factors of the great success of Casino Gran Madrid among the major European leisure establishments is its amazing live shows and concerts.

Recent artistes to delight guests have included singers Isabel Pantoja, who

gave a concert in the Mandalay restaurant to celebrate the Casino's 27th anniversary, and Shaila Dúrcal, whose records are topping the charts and who has been nominated for a Latin Grammy in the Best Female Pop Album category.

Juan Tamariz, the well-known magician, also amazed the crowded Casino with some of his incredible magic tricks.



Shaila Dúrcal

"TIME GATE" SERIES A WORLDWIDE TRIUMPH

Casino Salies-du-Salat in France has joined its name to the long list of gaming establishments to install the Unidesa Time Gate Series multiprogressive slot system.

Casinos in several countries including Spain, Ecuador, Panama, the Dominican Republic and others already offer this product, characterised by its novel design, excellent sound and graphic quality and the use of the newest technology in its manufacture.

The Unidesa Time Gate Series is triumphing in Casinos worldwide



Juan Tamariz is famous for his amazing card tricks

EUROPEAN ROUND UP

TCSJOHNHUXLEY SIGNS EXCLUSIVE SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH HOLLAND CASINO

After a lengthy and vigorous process assessing TCSJOHNHUXLEY's Chipper Champ 2 chip sorting machine, Holland Casino were very pleased to sign a 5-year exclusive supply contract. Holland Casino has been a long-standing customer of TCSJOHNHUXLEY across a broad spectrum of products for many years. The core of the relationship however, is based on the Chipping Machine. Both chipping machines were vigorously tested from all perspectives - technical, efficiency, operational, noise etc. and employees were formally required to complete preference questionnaires and voice opinions about all aspects of the machines. After the 3-month trial was complete, the Chipper Champ 2 unit was recommended as the preferred option.



Amber Ho-A-Sjoe, Holland Casino Vice President for Product Management, and David Heap, TCSJOHNHUXLEY Group Chief Executive

CASINO BAD HOMBURG SPECIFIES MEI

Casino Bad Homburg now specifies the MEI Cashflow SC83 banknote reader on slot machine purchases. The German Casino made the decision after the results of a successful value-added trial that ran several months on a number of slot machines.

Armin Weldner, Casino Bad Homburg Slot Manager, said: "The positive market feedback regarding the MEI Cashflow "SC83" set high expectations. Not only were our expectations fulfilled by the VAT, they were surpassed. We now specify MEI on all slot machine purchases". Mark Greenawalt, director of MEI Gaming in Europe, explained: "We are thrilled

that the success we have enjoyed with VATs in Europe has reached Germany. The recognition of the value associated with the Casflow SC is a tremendous source of pride for all of us at MEI. It makes it all the more special that a Casino with the history of Bad Homburg was the first to specify MEI in Germany. We would like to thank Bad Homburg Casino management for investing in the VAT and, ultimately, MEI".



RITZIO OPENS CLUBS IN ROMANIA

Ritzio International has purchased two gaming locations in the Czech cities of Nymburk and Brandys nad Labem to expand its countrywide operations. The new properties join a network of 36 gaming clubs managed by Ritzio Czech.

Expansion has also been a key task for Ritzio Romania. The company has opened 23 new gaming clubs over the past six months. Today Romania Ritzio is represented by 93 venues belonging to the Million chain and spread across the country's urban areas. Million is a network of middle-size gaming clubs with cozy and cheerful atmosphere, brightly colored interior and exterior design, and the most attractive game mix. The latest clubs opened in business and shopping centres of fifteen Romanian cities.



NEW MERKUR ELECTRONIC CASINO

Only a few weeks after its remodelling, the Merkur Casino, located in Cerny Most, one of the biggest and most modern local shopping centres in the heart of Prague, enjoyed a glamorous reopening. Almost 150 gaming seats are perfectly integrated into 1000 square metres of exclusive ambience. As early as 1992, operation of entertainment centres "made by Merkur" commenced in the Czech Republic. Today, the number has risen to 22 Merkur Casinos, seven of which are located in Prague, the capital. The new design also takes account of the diverse wishes of the players: VIP area, relax-zone or Casino atmosphere - our guests are always in the center of the services concept. It is the first Merkur Casino to feature a special event zone. From now on the new stage area will offer live performances in perfection: in addition to regular shows of talented young bands there will also be song contests.



Casino Bad Homburg

EUROCOIN APPOINT MARKETING AND PR COMPANY

Eurocoin have appointed Vanilla Marketing Solutions as their marketing and Public Relations Company.

"Eurocoin is expanding rapidly across Europe and Africa. We believe we have reached a stage where our corporate communications need to be professionally managed via a specialist media partner. As our client base grows across Europe and Africa it becomes increasingly difficult to communicate all developments solely through company direct mail and sales representatives", said Colin Veitch, Eurocoin Sales & Marketing Director.



SUREXPO 2008

The Polish AWP market has slipped out of its cocoon and the transformation was clear at this year's Surexpo in Warsaw, where the trend to video-based dual-screened Casino-like slots was apparent. This, coupled with the fact that the market is currently in growth mode, made Surexpo a very attractive exhibition and even more important for the Casino industry.

The success that Alfastreet is enjoying in Poland was underlined by the company exhibiting at the Surexpo.

The quick and strong growth in dual-screened video multi-gamers surely has much to do with the commitment that Austrian Gaming Industries (AGI) has made to the market. There was a good choice of high-quality casino-type AWP's. By far the most popular game was the "Hot Spot" from Novomatic and its distributor ATT.

The company presented the Hot Spot Platin (for the street market) and Hot Spot Platinum (for arcades) at the exhibition.

Suzo Happ is very well placed to offer manufacturers the correct components. The company is in the process of moving to a much bigger building in Poland to match increased demand. One can only imagine the current demand for



Warsaw Exhibition and Conference Centre, the venue for Surexpo 2008

flat monitors and touchscreens, and companies such as ELO (represented by Suzo Happ) are enjoying a period of healthy growth in this market. The move to high-end components explains the focus for MEI in this market. During the show, MEI announced that the Polish Casino group Orbis has successfully completed a trial of the Cashflow SC83. The Polish AWP market has changed dramatically in the last few years and this change was represented by the size and professionalism of Surexpo.



The Novomatic stand was a great meeting point for visitors to the fair



Wit Laskowski, ATT, distributors for Novomatic in Poland



Suzo executives: Marcel Oelen, Bas Wouters, Tomasz Andrezejewski and Robert van Enchuijzen



Alfastreet representatives: Ales Stefancic and Mihja Miklavcic