

6TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON GAMBLING STUDIES AND POLICY ISSUES



Malmö Town Hall

Over 250 people attended the 6th Conference of the European Association for the Study of Gambling (EASG), held in Malmö, Sweden, last July. Conference sponsors included Novomatic, Casino Cosmopol and Assissa Consultancy Europe. The Association provides a forum for the systematic study and discussion of gaming-related issues. It allows for exchange of information and the comparative study of the historical, mathematical, social and psychological aspects of gaming; the development, execution and evaluation of



Welcome dinner for Conference goers at Malmö Town Hall



Thomas Nilsson, Chairman of the EASG



Anders Galfensjö, Sweden; William Eadington, USA and Clive Allcock, Australia, at one of the plenary sessions

gaming regulations; ethical marketing and management of gambling opportunities; and an understanding of the development of problem gambling and the provision of prevention and treatment programmes.

The five previous conferences were held in Cambridge 1995, Amsterdam 1996, Munich 1998, Warsaw 2000 and Barcelona 2002. The Conference kicked off with a cocktail reception at Malmö town hall, where mayor Kjell-Arne Landgren welcomed the attendants.

European businesses and Casinos were represented by executives from Novomatic, Casinos Poland, Holland Casino, HIT Casinos, Casinos Austria, Casinos Slovakia, Casinos de Cataluña, and from the European Casino Association.

The inauguration speech was given by Thomas Nilsson, Chairman of the executive committee of the EASG, who stated, "The main reason for this gathering is the change in the gaming Europe".

The first plenary session focussed on competition and on the legal



Hartmut Nevries, Vice-president of the EASG

problems on the European market. Hartmut Nevries, Vice-President of EASG, maintained, "The European gambling market is growing, and is one of the few markets that can still claim growth rates. These growth markets are clearly situated in Eastern Europe. The saturation of traditional gambling markets, even in Europe, is still a long way off. Never before has the global gambling market undergone as radical a change as today: online gambling."

Anders Galfensjö, President of the European Casino Association (ECA) referred to the role of the ECA, "We should raise our common voice. The common view is characterised by misconception, stereotypes, and needs to change. We need to add entertainment."

Finally, Professor William Eadington, Director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University



Anders Galfensjö, Chairman of the ECA



Prof. William Eadington



Atmosphere at the sessions

of Nevada, spoke of the grounds of the gaming industry, gaming laws and regulations and types of gaming. Another immensely successful plenary session concentrated on "Diversity and Common Goals," moderated by Malgorzata Rogowicz-Angierman, Managing Director of Casinos Poland, and with the participation of Franz Wohlfahrt, President of the Board of Directors of Novomatic, who spoke about Internet gaming, "Internet gaming is all around us, and is the challenge we have to focus on. Restrictions are not the answer. Internet has revolutionised the gaming market, but in an unregulated way. Internet gaming and land-based gaming will stimulate each other". One of most interesting parallel sessions focussed on "Economics and policy" Malgorzata Rogowicz-Angierman spoke about taxes in the Casino sector, while Hermann Paminger from Casinos Austria spoke on changing customer trends in Casino gaming from an operator's perspective, concluding that "It is an increasingly mass market product, minimum bets are lower, the dress code has relaxed, there are countless tourists, and the Casino is losing ambience". Martin Sychold, a specialist in the legal and regulatory aspects of gambling from the



Casino Cosmopol



Dinner at Casino Cosmopol



Franz Wohlfahrt, President of the Board of Directors of Novomatic



Malgorzata Rogowicz-Angierman, Managing Director of Casinos Poland



Philippe Vlaeminck, Belgian attorney specialising in gaming-related matters



Judy Cornelius, Peter Collins and Boris Nemec, Head of Corporate Strategy, HIT Casinos, Slovenia



Martin Sychold

Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, informed of the new study being carried out by the Institute on the structural and economic importance of the gaming industry in the 25 European Union countries, including its development over the past 5 years and expectations for the coming 5 years. The aim of this study, to be published next year, is "To access



Franz Wohlfahrt and Hartmut Nevries take a break during the Conference



Matti Hokkanen and Anssi Airas from Casinos Ray, Finland



José Luis Guirao, Managing Director of Casinos de Cataluña, Spain, with Heliodoro Giner, General Secretary of the Spanish Casino Association

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FEATURED STORIES



Plenary session: Iver Hand, Hermann Pamminger and Peter Collins



Iver Hand

whether each of the existing barriers imposed by the Internal Market, the member states to restrict free movement of gambling services in the internal market could be held to be justified according to existing principles of European Law". The study is being carried out in collaboration with Professor Peter Collins, Head of the "Centre for the Study of Gambling" at the University of Salford, UK. During the Conference the Gaming Regulators European Forum (GREF) held a meeting of one of its work groups. Other important speakers included Iver Hand, from University Hospital Eppendorf/Hamburg, Germany; Angels González, from the Pathological Gambling Unit, Mataró Hospital, Spain; Judy Cornhill, from the University of Nevada, Reno, USA; and Pieter Remmers, from Assissa Consultancy Europe, The Netherlands. The activities carried out in conjunction with the Conference included dinner at Casino Cosmopol in Malmö and a trip to the famous Tivoli amusement park in Copenhagen, Denmark. The 7th EASG Conference will be held in Slovenia in 2008.



Jozef Skuben, Gaming Manager of Casinos Slovakia

Tivoli amusement park, Copenhagen, Denmark



Pieter Remmers and Thomas Nilsson



Farewell dinner at Tivoli amusement park



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