

ANNUAL MEETING OF GREF

The Annual Meeting of the Gaming Regulators European Forum (GREF) took place in Rome (Italy) from 14 to 18 June. 86 participants were present from 23 European countries (Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). The meeting was also attended by a representative from the European Union.

GREF was founded in 1989 and consists of representatives from gaming regulatory organisations throughout Europe. Its two main objects as stated in its constitution are: to provide a forum in which European gaming regulators can meet, exchange views and information and discuss policy on gaming matters; and on special occasions and with the agreement of participants represent the different views of European gaming regulators and also provide a central point of contact for enquiries directed at them from authorities or related organisations in Europe and elsewhere.



Under the chairmanship of Tom Kavanagh (United Kingdom), major items on the agenda were gambling addiction and European Union developments regarding gambling. Professor Cesare Guerreschi (Italian Society for Interventions on Compulsive Pathologies) gave a presentation on responsible gaming. Presentations on European Union developments regarding gambling were given by Professor Peter Collins (Centre for the Study of Gambling at the University of Salford UK) and Jean Bergevin (European Commission).



Reports were given by all delegations on significant developments during the last year in their countries, such as major changes in general policies or regulations regarding gaming (including developments on Internet gambling), developments in specific areas (problem gambling, money laundering, illegal gambling, cross border trading) and significant developments in the gambling industries (Casinos, lotteries, betting, bingo, slot machines).



The four existing GREF working groups held meetings by way of break out group discussions.

The Working Group on Technical Issues monitors technological developments in the gaming business (machines, Internet, on-line terminals, wireless applications, etc.) and may propose common standards on technical issues.

The Working Group on Information and Statistics develops and maintains a common reference framework for information sharing and statistics.

The Working Group on Gambling Addiction monitors and reports on prevalence studies, preventive measures and treatment programmes with regard to compulsive gambling.

The Working Group on Illegal Gambling, monitors developments and exchanges information related to illegal gambling. A combined breakout session of the Working Groups on Gambling Addiction and on Technical Issues was also held, to discuss technical tools used to identify problem gamblers.

The next meeting will take place in at the Excelsior Hotel, Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 13 to 17 June 2007.



Attendants at the GREF meeting