

1st GLOBAL REMOTE AND E-GAMBLING RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

The Global Remote and e-Gambling Research Institute, a private, non-profit organisation, is devoted to the study of the historical, economic, mathematical, legal, social and psychological aspects of "remote gambling and e-gambling".

The Institute aims to get international recognition for its research into e-gambling.

The first edition of the Global Remote and e-Gambling Research Institute (GREGR), held in Amsterdam, Holland, in early September, attracted many industry sponsors, including leading international slot manufacturer IGT, Holland Casino, Assissa Consultancy Group, VAN Speelautomaten, Kryco, and others.

The conference had almost 100 participants, from over 18 countries world wide. Although the majority were European, there were also experts from Venezuela, Australia, Canada, the USA and Israel. Participants included many regulators, owners, researchers and experts in psychiatric and psychological treatment. Speakers included Mark Griffiths from Nottingham Trent University, UK, who spoke about whether it was possible to see the future by looking at the past. According to Dr Griffiths, an excellent example can be found by



Ynze Remmers, Assissa Consultancy Europe, The Netherlands, Conference organiser



Pieter Vlaeminck, attorney, Vlaeminck & Partners, Belgium; and Pieter Remmers, Secretary of the Board, GREGR



Mark Griffiths, Nottingham Trent University, UK



Per Binde, CEFOS, Sweden



Jeffrey Derevensky, McGill University, Canada

analysing discussions at previous gaming conferences and seeing whether the predictions came true. Another conference veteran, Per Binde, from CEFOS, Sweden, spoke of the reasons why people gamble. One example is the "dream of a better life". There was also an entire session devoted to gaming among younger people, at which Jeffrey Derevenski, from McGill University, Canada, tried to explain why young people gamble, and how they are attracted by advertisements using sport, eroticism and other elements that have nothing to do



Angels González-Ibáñez, Hospital of Mataró, Spain; Jeffrey Derevensky, McGill University, Canada; Rob d'Hondt, Assissa Consultancy Europe, The Netherlands; Ken Winters, University of Minnesota, USA; and Yvon Jansma, Centrum Maliebaan, The Netherlands



Ira Gladnikoff, Svenska Spel, Sweden



Johan van Kastel, Holland Casino, The Netherlands

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Conferences and Exhibitions

with gaming. Another aspect analysed at the conference dealt with the monopolies who want to use Internet for gaming. It was discussed by representatives from Svenska Spel, Sweden; Holland Casino, The Netherlands and Veikkaus from Finland. In this regard, tendencies aim at limiting the amount players can lose each day, week, month or year, and limiting the time players can be connected to the Internet. The speakers from the three countries disagreed on how to establish limits. In Finland, for example, they are imposed by the government. The common denominator for Sweden, Holland and Finland is limiting internet access to web gaming in these countries to national players only, so that gaming remains within the national parameter. This can be achieved by means of a national bank account, social security number, etc. This controls how much a national gamer can play on the internet. The speakers agreed on the prevention of problem pathological gambling and fighting against money laundering. An intense couple of days, with the participation of important experts from several countries, who discussed all aspects of internet gaming, responsible gaming, regulations and other matters. After the debates, the participants were taken to see a typical Dutch windmill, still in operation.

Text and photos: EUROPEAN CASINOS-The Elite



Tuula Sundstrom, Veikkaus, Finland



César A. Sánchez-Bello, the Latin American Psychiatric Association, Venezuela



Angels González-Ibáñez, Mataró Hospital, Spain



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