

Declaration of gambling regulators on their concerns related to the blurring of lines between gambling and gaming

17 September 2018

Our authorities are committed to the objectives of their public policies with regard to consumer protection, prevention of problem gambling and ensuring the safety of underage persons. While each regulator has distinct duties and powers within our own national gambling frameworks, we share a number of common principles including the need for gambling to be regulated to ensure high standards of integrity, fairness and consumer protection, in particular in relation to children.

Given these shared principles, we are increasingly concerned with the risks being posed by the blurring of lines between gambling and other forms of digital entertainment such as video gaming. Concerns in this area have manifested themselves in controversies relating to skin betting, loot boxes, social casino gaming and the use of gambling themed content within video games available to children.

Regulators identify in such emerging gaming products and services similar characteristics to those that led our respective legal frameworks and authorities to provide for the regulation of online gambling.

We commit ourselves today to working together to thoroughly analyse the characteristics of video games and social gaming. This common action will enable an informed dialogue with the video games and social gaming industries to ensure the appropriate and efficient implementation of our national laws and regulations. Each gambling regulator will of course reserve the right to use instruments of enforcement given by its national gambling regulatory framework. We will also work closely with our consumer protection enforcement authorities.

We anticipate that it will be in the interest of these companies whose platforms or games are prompting concern, to engage with [gambling] regulatory authorities to develop possible solutions.

This common action by gambling regulators will raise parental and consumer awareness regarding the transition between gaming for leisure and entertainment and the offering of gambling possibilities.

We expect that this Declaration will initiate a constructive dialogue between gambling regulators and responsible game developers.

This Declaration, which reflects the shared concerns of its signatories, was discussed at the annual meeting 2018 of the Gambling Regulators European Forum.



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Karel Blaha, Director of the State Oversight Over Gambling Department, Czech Republic



Steve Brennan, Chief Executive, Gambling Supervision Commission, Isle of Man



Charles Coppolani, Chair of the French Online Gaming Regulatory Authority



Juan Espinosa García, CEO, Directorate General for Gambling Regulation, Spain



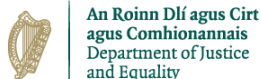
Heathcliff Farrugia, Chief Executive Officer, Malta Gaming Authority



Jason Lane, Chief Executive, Jersey Gambling Commission



Andrew Lyman, Executive Director, Gambling Division, HM Government of Gibraltar



Brendan Mac Namara, Principal Officer, Gambling Policy Division, Department of Justice and Equality of Ireland



Teresa Monteiro, Vice-President of Turismo de Portugal, I.P



Henrik Nordal, Director Deputy General, Norwegian Gaming Authority



Jan Suyver, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Netherlands Gambling Authority



Neil McArthur, Chief Executive Officer, UK Gambling Commission



Paweł Gruza, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Finance, Poland



Alfred Hacker, Director, Federal Ministry of Finance, Austria



David Trujillo, Director, Washington State Gambling Commission