

Effect of proposed new Anti-Money Laundering Directive on Online Gambling Services

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The European Parliament has today adopted amendments to the EC's proposed anti-money laundering rules (the 4th anti-money laundering directive) with the consequence that for the first time all gambling services would be subject to EU-wide rules to prevent money laundering. However, the change is not immediate because the EU Council and the European Parliament still need to agree on the detail of the proposed revisions to the rules, which may not occur until the end of the year, if indeed the Council does not reject the proposed gambling provisions.

Although expected, this development was met with mixed views. Maarten Haijer, Secretary General of EGBA, said that this *"confirms that online gambling is an inherent cross-border service which, in line with the subsidiarity principle, is better governed by one set of rules at EU level, rather than by 28 different national laws"*. However whilst strongly supporting the objectives of the new Directive, the Remote Gambling Association has expressed its disappointment that online gambling was singled out as the one form of gambling where due diligence measures might have to be applied to all customers as soon as a business relationship is established, arguing that *"this runs completely counter to the risk-based approach that has always been a key principle of successive AMLDs"*.

More news when we have it.

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