

Public consultation on the Green Paper on on-line gambling in the Internal Market

You are invited to reply to the on-line questionnaire. The questions listed in the Green Paper are reproduced in the same order hereunder. A pdf version of the [Green Paper](#) is available in all EU languages for guidance to the questions.

There are 51 questions in the consultation document. You may reply to those questions in any one of the EU languages. You may focus your contributions on the areas of most interest to you; you are not obliged to answer all the questions.

Please save this document on your computer. Once you have completed the questionnaire, come back to the on-line questionnaire. You will be able to upload your answers on page 3 of the on-line questionnaire.

The consultation will close on 31/07/2011.

We thank you for your participation.

Your name / Your organisation:

Ilea Silviu

Questions from the Green Paper on on-line Gambling in the Internal Market

1. Regulating on-line gambling in the EU: Recent developments and current challenges from the Internal Market standpoint
 - 1.1. Purpose of the consultation
 - 1.2. On-line gambling in the EU: current situation

(1) Are you aware of any available data or studies on the EU on-line gambling market that would assist policy-making at EU and national level? If yes, do the data or study include licensed non-EU operators in the EU market?

No.

(2) Are you aware of any available data or studies relating to the nature and size of the black market for on-line gambling services? (Unlicensed operators)

No.

(3) What, if any, is your experience of EU-based on-line gambling operators licensed in one or more Member State and providing and promoting their

services in other EU Member States? What are your views on their impact on the corresponding markets and their consumers?

I play online poker at PokerStars. The only impact that I noticed is that there are now people that do this for a living or for a partial income, but here I refer strictly to online poker.

(4) What, if any, is your experience of licensed non-EU on-line gambling operators providing and promoting their services in EU Member States? What are your views on their impact on the EU market and on consumers?

I have no experience.

(5) If any, which are the legal and/or practical problems that arise, in your view, from the jurisprudence of national courts and the CJEU in the field of online gambling? In particular, are there problems of legal certainty on your national and/or the EU market for such services?

The lack of a well defined legal ground for online gambling in the EU has led to very different national legislations regarding this matter. This has led to some extreme legislations like in France and Italy.

(6) Do you consider that existing national and EU secondary law applicable to on-line gambling services adequately regulates those services? In particular, do you consider that coherence / consistency is ensured between, on one hand, the public policy objectives pursued by Member States in this field and, on the other hand, the national measures in force and/or the actual behaviour of public or private operators providing on-line gambling services?

No. I think there should be no secondary national laws.

Other comments on issues raised in section 1

2. Key policy issues subject to the present consultation

2.1. Definition and organisation of on-line gambling services

(7) How does the definition of on-line gambling services in the Green Paper differ from definitions at national level?

(8) Are gambling services offered by the media considered as games of chance at national level? Is there a distinction drawn between promotional games and gambling?

In Romania, not all games of chance offered by the media are depicted as gambling. There is not always a distinction drawn between promotional games and gambling.

(9) Are cross-border on-line gambling services offered in licensed premises dedicated to gambling (e.g. casinos, gambling halls or a bookmaker's shop) at national level?

No.

(10) What are the main advantages/difficulties associated with the coexistence in the EU of differing national systems of, and practices for, the licensing of on-line gambling services?

I don't think there are any advantages. Difficulties would consist of a complex licencing system inside the EU making the premise of free trade almost inexistent.

Other comments on issues raised in section 2.1

2.2. Related services performed and/or used by on-line gambling services providers

(11) With focus on the categories mentioned in the Green Paper, how are commercial communications for (on-line) gambling services regulated for at national level? Are there specific problems with such cross-border commercial communications?

(12) Are there specific national regulations pertaining to payment systems for on-line gambling services? How do you assess them?

(13) Are players' accounts a necessary requirement for enforcement and player protection reasons?

Yes.

(14) What are the existing national rules and practices relating to customer verification, their application to on-line gambling services and their consistency with data protection rules? How do you assess them? Are there specific problems associated with customer verification in a cross-border context?

Other comments on issues raised in section 2.2

2.3. Public interest objectives

2.3.1. Consumer protection

(15) Do you have evidence that the factors listed in the Green Paper are linked to and/or central for the development of problem gambling or excessive use of on-line gambling services? (if possible, please rank them)

I don't have any evidence, nor do I believe in the factors listed in the Green Paper.

(16) Do you have evidence that the instruments listed in the Green Paper are central and/or efficient to prevent or limit problem gambling relating to on-line gambling services? (if possible, please rank them)

I think that most of the instruments listed are efficient with the exception of "Restricting certain forms of games or bets that are considered to be the most risky"(7) and "Restricting certain forms of games or bets that are considered to be the most risky"(8). The most efficient instrument for online gambling is "Reality checks"(5).

(17) Do you have evidence (e.g. studies, statistical data) on the scale of problem gambling at national or EU level?

No.

(18) Are there recognised studies or evidence demonstrating that on-line gambling is likely to be more or less harmful than other forms of gambling for individuals susceptible to develop a pathological gaming pattern?

No.

(19) Is there evidence to suggest which forms of on-line gambling (types of games) are most problematic in this respect?

I'm not aware of any such evidence.

(20) What is done at national level to prevent problem gambling? (E.g. to ensure early detection)?

I'm not aware of such programmes.

(21) Is treatment for gambling addiction available at national level? If so, to what extent do on-line gambling operators contribute to the funding of such preventive actions and treatment?

(22) What is the required level of due diligence in national regulation in this field? (e.g. recording on-line players' behaviour to determine a probable pathological gambler?).

I don't think there should be a national regulation for this matter.

(23) What is the statutory age limit for having access to on-line gambling services in your Member State? Are existing limits adequate to protect minors?

18. Yes, the limit is adequate.

(24) Are on-line age controls imposed and how do these compare to off-line 'face-to-face' identification?

Yes, on-line age controls are strictly imposed and in some ways are better than the 'face-to-face' identification.

(25) How are commercial communications for gambling services regulated to protect minors at national or EU level? (e.g. limits on promotional games that are designed as on-line casino games, sports sponsorship, merchandising (e.g. replica jerseys, computer games etc) and use of social on-line networks or video-sharing for marketing purposes.

In my opinion, commercial communication is well regulated.

(26) Which national regulatory provisions on license conditions and commercial communications for on-line gambling services account for the risks described in the Green Paper and seek to protect vulnerable consumers? How do you assess them?

Other comments on issues raised in section 2.3.1

2.3.2. Public order

(27) Are you aware of studies and/or statistical data relating to fraud and on-line gambling?

No.

(28) Are there rules regarding the control, standardisation and certification of gambling equipment, random generators or other software in your Member State?

Yes.

(29) What, in your opinion, are the best practices to prevent various types of fraud (by operators against players, players against operators and players against players) and to assist complaint procedures?

The operators should be licensed by the EU according to well devised standards.

(30) As regards sports betting and outcome fixing - what national regulations are imposed on on-line gambling operators and persons involved in sport events/games to address these issues, in particular to prevent 'conflicts of interest'? Are you aware of any available data or studies relating to the magnitude of this problem?

(31) What issues should in your view be addressed in priority?

They are all equally important.

(32) What risks are there that a (on-line) sports betting operator, which has entered into a sponsorship agreement with a sports club or an association, will seek to influence the outcome of a sports event directly or indirectly for profitable gain?

I think there is some risk involved if the online operator has a financial interest in the outcome of the game.

(33) What concrete cases are there that have demonstrated how on-line gambling could be used for money laundering purposes?

I never heard of such a thing.

(34) Which micro-payments systems require specific regulatory control in view of their use for on-line gambling services?

(35) Do you have experience and/or evidence of best practice to detect and prevent money laundering?

Yes, some online gambling services do not permit the transfer of money between players. The online poker sites that permit the transfer of money between players do not allow the cash-out of the transferred funds without proof that the money were used for playing.

(36) Is there evidence to demonstrate that the risk of money laundering through on-line gambling is particularly high in the context of such operations set up on social web-sites?

No.

(37) Are national e-commerce transparency requirements enforced to allow for illegally operated services to be tracked and closed? How do you assess this situation?

In my opinion they are well enforced.

Other comments on issues raised in section 2.3.2

2.3.3. Financing of benevolent and public interest activities as well as events on which on-line sports betting relies

(38) Are there other gambling revenue channeling schemes than those described in the Green Paper for the public interest activities at national or EU level?

I'm not aware.

(39) Is there a specific mechanism, such as a Fund, for redistributing revenue from public and commercial on-line gambling services to the benefit of society?

I'm aware the some poker sites and some of their players donated money for the benefit of society.

(40) Are funds returned or re-attributed to prevention and treatment of gambling addiction?

(41) What are the proportions of on-line gambling revenues from sports betting that are redirected back into sports at national level?

I don't know.

(42) Do all sports disciplines benefit from on-line gambling exploitation rights in a similar manner to horse-racing and, if so, are those rights exploited?

I'm not aware of this situation.

(43) Do on-line gambling exploitation rights that are exclusively dedicated to ensuring integrity exist?

(44) Is there evidence to suggest that the cross-border "free-riding" risk noted in the Green Paper for on-line gambling services is reducing revenues to national public interest activities that depend on channelling of gambling revenues?

No.

(45) Do there exist transparency obligations that allow for gamblers to be made aware of whether and how much gambling service providers are channelling revenues back into public interest activities?

I don't know.

Other comments on issues raised in section 2.3.3

2.4. Enforcement and related matters

(46) Which form of regulatory body exists in your Member State and what are its competences, its scope of action across the on-line gambling services as defined in the Green Paper?

(47) Is there a national register of licensed operators of gambling services? If so, is it publicly accessible? Who is responsible for keeping it up to date?

(48) Which forms of cross-border administrative cooperation are you aware of in the domain of gambling and which specific issues are covered?

(49) Are you aware of enhanced cooperation, educational programmes or early warning systems as described in the Green Paper that are aimed at strengthening integrity in sport and/or increase awareness among other stakeholders?

(50) Are any of the methods mentioned in the Green Paper, or any other technical means, applied at national level to limit access to on-line gambling services or to restrict payment services? Are you aware of any cross-border initiative(s) aimed at enforcing such methods? How do you assess their effectiveness in the field of on-line gambling?

(51) What are your views on the relative merits [in terms of suitability and efficiency] of the methods mentioned in the Green Paper as well as any other technical means to limit access to gambling services or payment services?

Other comments on issues raised in section 2.4

Other comments on issues raised in the Green Paper