



London, 24 January 2006

ECA TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO EU DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF GAMBLING IN EUROPE

At the European Casino Association's (ECA) annual general meeting, which was held today in London, members confirmed the ECA's intent to continue reaching out to EU policy makers and stakeholders in 2007 with a view to constructively contribute to on-going discussions on the future of gambling in Europe.

ECA & EASG seminar

The meeting kicked off with a seminar the ECA organised together with the European Association on the Study of Gambling (EASG) addressing "The changing landscape of gambling in Europe".

The seminar was attended by more than 120 participants from the two associations. After addressing the issue from a legal and political point of view at the AGM in 2006, this year's seminar took an academic and a business perspective on gambling with three speakers from Harrah's Entertainment Inc., Salford University, and Think & Do International.

The seminar was the second time ECA joined forces with the EASG after EASG endorsed the ECA's code of conduct on responsible gambling in 2006.

Market evolution

Similar to last year, the European casino market has seen moderate growth of 3% during 2006, the level of which varied between Member States. To this end the casino sector has a 15% share of the total gambling market in Europe.¹

About the ECA

In line with an evolving market in gambling the European Casino Association (ECA) also grew in 2006, representing the interests of almost 900 casinos and approximately 76,000 employees across Europe.

The ECA's members in 2006 included Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. ECA membership continues to increase with Romania set to join the ECA in the course of spring 2007.



For further information please contact the ECA Chairman Ron Goudsmit (+31 653 130 335), Vice-chairman Guido Berghmans (+352 21 301 881), , or the ECA secretariat.

¹ See "Study of Gambling Services in the Internal Market of the European Union", Final Report, 14 June 2006, published by the European Commission in October 2006