



Torrequebrada, Spain, 22 March 2007

**CASINO ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES
HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM OF DEALERS IN EUROPE AT
ECA DEALER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Celebrating "best practice" in creating a pleasant, welcoming and at the same time safe and fair environment in casinos across Europe, the European Casino Association (ECA) today concluded its first European Dealer Championship.

The Championship included national competitions in ten countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden) over the last four months and concluded with the two-day final event today bringing to an end what was *"an outstanding championship showcasing the excellent skill levels of casino dealers across Europe"*, ECA Chairman Mr Ron Goudsmit said.

"The championship was a first for us. We had high expectations with this event and towards the 18 contestants who participated in the final and as such we are delighted that the competition was such a success."

Winners

The first ECA Dealer Championship was won by Mr Paul van Leeuwen from the Netherlands. Second placed and Vice-Champion was Mr Lieven Daschot from Belgium. Mrs Pilar Romero (Spain) and Mr Hon Kee Man (the Netherlands) took the honours as joint third placed. Mr Paul van Leeuwen and his colleagues were the best amongst the best in this championship and as such will surely serve as inspiration for colleagues in their day-to-day work as well as in future competitions.

As Mr Goudsmit put it, *"dealing a table game looks simple, but everything looks simple if you see good craftsmanship. To serve casino guests in a professional way, you need a range of skills including hospitality, communicative skills, technical skills and control of the game."*

The ECA and its members understand and recognize that training is crucial in order to learn all these skills and to become a good and qualified dealer. The ECA to this end promotes training and supports its members in constantly trying to improve professionalism in the casinos across Europe.



This European Dealer Championship underlines this and at the same time provided a perfect opportunity to exchange information, to expand networks, and to meet with friends.

European Casino Association

The European Casino Association represents the interests of almost 900 casinos and 76.000 employees across Europe. Founded in the early 90's as the European Casino Forum, the ECA has gradually grown over the years and today includes members from the majority of the EU's member states and from Switzerland.

For further information please contact the ECA EU Office (+32 2 777 05 06), ECA Chairman Ron Goudsmit (+31 653 130 335), or ECA Vice-chairman Guido Berghmans (+352 21 301 881).