**EC / IRIS - UK**

**SEMINAR “FIGHT AGAINST MATCH-FIXING”**

**Date:** 28 May 2014  
**Place:** London (UK)  
**Participants:** cf. appendix

**Main issues raised during the seminar:**

**Level of match-fixing risk and awareness:**

- The UK had to face different match-fixing and spot-fixing cases in football in the past. In April 2014, the National Crime Agency just arrested 7 football players accused to have fixed matches.  
- According to participants, awareness about match-fixing issues is quite good in the UK but still has to be improved.

**Who has to fight against match fixing?**

- In the UK, public authorities respect the autonomy of sports organisations. The cooperation between the sports movement and public bodies appears to work quite well, in particular through the Sport Betting Integrity Unit;  
- The UK supports the idea of an international convention to fight against match fixing.

**Match-fixing and betting:**

- The level of knowledge of the participants about betting is the highest observed in Europe;  
- In the UK, there is a system of licences for land based betting and a general authorisation for online betting. It means that, if a betting operator gets an online licence somewhere in the world, it is not considered as illegal in the UK. Nevertheless, if he wants to advertise its activity, it has to be located in a country of the UK “White List” (EU, Alderney, Antigua, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Tasmania);  
- In the UK, the Gambling Commission is not able to control operators licensed elsewhere (for example in Cagayan or Belize) nor to perceive taxes from these operators, even if the consumer is located in the UK. This situation might change due to a new legislation still pending;  
- The UK has a very liberal position on betting: Most of the participants were not in favour of betting restrictions, which is an atypical position in comparison with other visited countries;  
- Regarding this authorisation system, the fight against illegal betting is currently not an issue for the UK;  
- In the UK, sports organisations and betting operators work together on a regular basis for a long time. The level of coordination can be considered as high even if...
the sport’s critical mind towards betting operators seems to be left in the background;

Measures to protect sports integrity:

- Participants give overwhelming support to education and information measures;
- In the UK, there are very strict disciplinary procedures to protect sports integrity:
  - Prohibition, for sports actors, to bet on their own sport (and not on their competition or match);
  - Prohibition to give any inside information for betting purposes;
  - Obligation to report any approach or suspicious information regarding possible manipulations;
- In the UK, there is a criminal offence related to match fixing, and more precisely to cheating (Section 42 of the 2005 Gambling Act). A person commits an offence if he cheats at gambling, or does anything for the purpose of enabling or assisting another person to cheat at gambling, etc. The offence under this section shall be liable on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, to a fine or to both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Existing (Yes / No)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betting: Fight against illegal betting</td>
<td>NO (authorisation regime)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betting: Authorised list of bets</td>
<td>NO (no restrictions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betting: Other restrictions (pay out, stakes)</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport: Education programs</td>
<td>YES (most of the &quot;big&quot; sports set up prevention and information programmes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betting prohibition for sport actors</td>
<td>YES (for most of the sports)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conflicts of interest: Disclosure of inside information</td>
<td>YES (for most of the sports)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrity officer</td>
<td>YES (for most of the sports)</td>
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<td>Sport: Prohibition to control betting operators</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal offence &amp; Sanctions</td>
<td>YES (criminal offence on “cheating” – Section 42 of the 2005 Gambling Act)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betting: Prohibition to control sports when bets are offered</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract between sport and betting</td>
<td>NOT mandatory (only sponsorship)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence and monitoring</td>
<td>YES (through SportRadar and MOUs with betting operators)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Next steps and recommendations:

- The UK may possibly look into the 4 following priority items:
  - Appointment of an “integrity officer” in each major sports organisation, not only in “big” sports;
  - Analysis of the sports actors’ behaviours towards betting and match fixing (knowledge about betting procedures and obligations, number of approaches, etc.);
  - Development of a harmonised national Code of sport including conflicts of interest rules for all sports (may be through recommendations from the
Sports Betting Integrity Unit): prohibition to bet for sport actors on their own competition, disclosure of inside information, etc.

- Implementation of requirements regarding the UK based betting industry (obligations to report suspicious betting patterns, cooperation between sports organizations (and first of all football) and betting operators, etc.).
APPENDIX

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