



Paris, 21st January 2013

IRIS AND ITS PARTNERS OFFICIALLY START AN EU PROGRAM TO RAISE NATIONAL AWARENESS ON MATCH-FIXING

IRIS and its partners held today the kick-off meeting of their 18 month program financed by the European Commission together with the European State Lotteries and Toto Association (EL). The program called “What national networks in the EU to fight against match fixing?”, is carried out by the Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS), in partnership with SportAccord, the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), the University of Salford and the French think tank “Sport et Citoyenneté” (Sport and Citizenship). This program is a response to the call for [proposals](#) launched by the “Sport” unit of the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission to set up transnational projects with the aim of implementing future actions regarding sports and its good practices on a European scale.

Pascal Boniface, director of IRIS and co-author of the IRIS white paper « Sports betting and corruption », explains that “*given the heterogeneity of the methods used within the EU countries to tackle sports fraud and the huge differences in the way countries regulate sports betting, it seems essential to inform and educate public authorities as well as sports organisations on what is at stake when it comes to the integrity of sports, as well as on the means to preserve it*”. The aim of this project is also to compare different national experiences regarding the fight against corruption, to highlight their singularities and to identify best practices. Another objective consists in creating a European network linking the people (from every European Union country) concerned by the fight against corruption.

METHODOLOGY OF THE PROJECT

IRIS and its partners offer a four-phase project which is to be carried out within each European Union member state from 2013 to 2014.

1/ Management of a questionnaire, the aim of which is to understand the singularities of each country (identification of match-fixing cases, existing sports fraud provisions, regulation of sports betting, enforcement of sports rules, *ad hoc* needs and demands, etc.);

2/Organisation of a seminar at a national level. Not only does this seminar aim to inform and educate the participants on the different aspects of the issues related to the integrity of sports and betting, it will also represent an opportunity to gather various targeted people and to encourage better communications between stakeholders;

3/ Drafting of a recommendation proposal adapted to the situation of each country, in order to highlight the needs identified during the seminar, as well as priority actions to be developed at a national level.

4/ Organisation in Brussels of a “restitution conference”, aimed at presenting the synthesis of the conclusions and recommendations drawn during the implementation of the project.

PARTNERS

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC RELATIONS (IRIS)



IRIS, an association classified as being of public interest, is the only big French think tank to have been founded as the result of a fully private initiative and in a wholly independent way. The institute addresses a very large range of geostrategic issues and works for public bodies (ministries, European institutions, Parliament, international organisations) and for private companies, for which it conducts studies, writes notes and sets up trainings. In addition to this, it organises around fifty events a year (seminars, colloquia, conferences, breakfasts, etc.). IRIS is now acknowledged as an expert in the sports field and the associated governance issues. For more than five years, the institute has been increasing its contribution in the sports field: a White Paper called "Paris sportifs et corruption, comment préserver l'intégrité du sport" ("Sports betting and corruption: how to preserve the integrity of sports") was published at the beginning of 2012; a study programme, the theme of which was "the strategies of sports diplomacy as new influence tools for the states" (known as "DIPLOSPORT"), has been set up in cooperation with the support of the CSFRS (Centre Supérieur de la Formation et de la Recherche Stratégiques, Centre for Strategic Training and Research); a strategic partnership has been struck with the Peace & Sport association; reference books have been published by the institute, and so on.

SPORTACCORD



SportAccord is the umbrella organisation of international sports federations as well as organisers of international sporting events. Based in Lausanne, its core mission is to unite and support its 107 members in the co-ordination and protection of their common aims and interests. SportAccord encourages and facilitates knowledge sharing and provides expertise in relevant areas such as anti-doping, social responsibility, integrity, digital media, etc. By establishing various multi-sports games that group together similar sports, SportAccord also aims to promote its members and increase their visibility.

ENGSO



The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) is a non-profit organisation which comprises the national sports confederations and the National Olympic Committees. Its members represent their sports - in the widest sense of the word -, from children's and youth sports (through "sports for all" activities) to elite sports. Today, 40 organisations are full members of the ENGSO, among which 27 Olympic Committees and 13 confederations are to be found.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD



The British University of Salford offers tuitions from secondary to postgraduate education, with the aim to prepare the students to work in the research field or within a company. The Business School of the University of Salford has founded an important research unit which carries out studies on sports and has struck numerous partnerships with bodies such as the Football Association and the Recreation Alliance.

SPORT ET CITOYENNETE (SPORT AND CITIZENSHIP)



Sport et Citoyenneté is a think tank, the mission of which is to initiate a civic European dialogue regarding the sports field; this dialogue is to originate from a common thinking on the matter and from the networking of people involved in European sports. The results of these processes are then brought to the attention of the European public decision-makers, with a view to making them acknowledge the specificity of sports when it comes to its social, educative and civic aspects. Every quarter, Sport et Citoyenneté publishes a reference scientific journal which links sports with main societal issues, analyses political current affairs and develops multidisciplinary reflections.

THE EUROPEAN LOTTERIES (EL)



The European Lotteries (EL) is the European umbrella organisation of national lotteries operating games of chance for the public benefit. The association's members contribute more than 25 billion EUR p.a. to the state budgets and the funding of sport, culture, social projects, research and other causes of general interest. EL is Europe's by far largest and geographically most representative association of gambling operators with members from more than 40 European countries and includes the biggest land-based sport betting operators in Europe. EL members offer sport betting in 23 out of 27 EU Member States. Preserving the integrity of sports is of particular importance to the EL and its members. The code of conduct they signed in 2007 and the 2011 Sports Charter are evidence of this commitment. The lotteries which joined the EL furthermore unconditionally support the project of an international convention on which the Council of Europe is currently working (EPAS).

NATIONAL LOTTERY PARTNERS:

AB Svenska Spell (Sweden) - Austrian Lotteries (Austria) - Belgium National Lottery (Belgium) - Danske Spil (Denmark) - De Lotto (Netherlands) - Eurofootball (Bulgaria) - Française des Jeux (France) - Hrvatska Lutrija (Croatia) - Lotto Hessen (Germany) - Lotto Niedersachsen (Germany) - Lotto Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) - Lottomatica (Italy) - Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (Portugal) - Sazka sazkova kancelar a.s. (Czech Republic) - Sisal S.P.A. (Italy) - Sportna Loterija (Slovenia) - Szerencsejatek Zrt (Hungary) - Veikkaus Oy (Finland) - Tipos (Slovakia)