



## EC / IRIS - HUNGARY

# SEMINAR “FIGHT AGAINST MATCH-FIXING”

**Date:** 13 September 2013

**Place:** Budapest (Hungary)

**Participants:** cf. appendix

### **Main issues raised during the seminar:**

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

- The match-fixing risk in Hungary is considered by the participants as high.
- Awareness about match-fixing issues has been developing since around two years (especially after two big football cases, involving more than 50 people – the first one with around € 600,000 bribes).
- According to most of the participants, there is still a clear lack of information, education and prevention about match-fixing in Hungary.

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

- In Hungary, public authorities strongly recognize sports autonomy (according to national sports law). The sports movement seems to be ready to accept public intervention in case of public order risks (for instance intrusion of organised Crime within sports structures). The idea to develop new strong measures to protect sports integrity and to share information in an international cooperative way is seen as important by all participants. It has to be noted that there is a cooperation between public authorities and sports organisations, including a public financial support.
- The issue of the funding of sports integrity measures may be important in Hungary. Many sports organisations have to face financial problems, especially professional football clubs (it was mentioned that players’ salaries are often paid with a long delay). In Hungary, there is therefore a specific need for good governance measures.

#### **Sports betting:**

- Several participants highlight the lack of information about betting.
- In Hungary, there is a project (it might be implemented in the beginning of 2014) to regulate sports betting with a system of licenses, but also to fight against illegal betting (today there is no law enforcement on that point). The tax level should reach 20% of the Gross Gaming Revenue, but the betting operators would have to add quite high license fees.



- Several participants, including representatives of the law enforcement authorities, urge for enhanced cooperation between betting operators and the sports movement: transfer of betting expertise, exchange of information, etc.

#### Measures to protect sports integrity:

- Participants give overwhelming support to education and information measures (to be developed within the country).
- Football is currently running a complete programme in cooperation with the FIFPro (World Player's Union) and the London University. The programme is called "Don't Fix it"<sup>1</sup>. The first training session might start in spring 2014 and target young players. The Professional Football Association already organised a meeting with team managers and some players who have been involved in match-fixing cases. The objective is, beyond education, to define practical tools to fight against match-fixing.
- Tennis and basketball representatives insist on the need of prevention as well;
- The Hungarian Professional Football Association would like to set up a whistle-blowing alert system on the basis of the Finnish example. Players could report anonymously (through Smartphones) any approach attempt or match-fixing rumour to the management of the federation;
- In Hungary, according to representatives of the Police, there is a general criminal legislation/offence on corruption but it is hard to reach a conclusion, whether the current legislation in place is enough or additional criminal material would be needed, as there have not been many cases under investigation so far. Some experts think that it could be useful to introduce the principle of a betting fraud (for more efficiency).

Measures	Existing (Yes / No)
<b>Betting: Fight against illegal betting</b>	NO (but offering bets illegally is a Crime)
<b>Betting: Authorised list of bets</b>	NO (Szerencsejáték – Monopoly for sports betting - implements self-limitations regarding the EL code of conduct)
<b>Betting: Other restrictions (pay out)</b>	NO (Szerencsejáték implements strong self-limitations, including limits of stakes)
<b>Sport: Education programs</b>	In progress for football (remains quite new), essentially through players' association FIFPro.
<b>Betting prohibition for sport actors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every federation has its own rules;</li> <li>- At the moment, some federations implemented some rules in their disciplinary code (e.g. basketball 2 years ago) or through the international rules (e.g. football : based on FIFA and UEFA rules).</li> </ul>
<b>Conflicts of interest: Disclosure of inside information</b>	Idem
<b>Integrity officer</b>	NO (except for football due to UEFA requirements)
<b>Sport: Prohibition to control betting operators</b>	NO
<b>Criminal offence &amp; Sanctions</b>	NO specific offence for sports fraud (general legislation on fraud and bribery on public life)

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fifpro.org/news/news\\_details/2310](http://www.fifpro.org/news/news_details/2310)



<b>Betting: Prohibition to control sports when bets are offered</b>	NO
<b>Contract between sport and betting</b>	NO (not at the moment)
<b>Intelligence and monitoring</b>	YES (through Szerencsejáték / ELMS)

Next steps and recommendations:

- Hungary may possibly look into the 5 following priority items:
  - o Appointment of an “integrity officer” in each “big” sports organisation.
  - o Implementation of education programmes focusing on face-to-face (players, referees) and “train the trainers” (may be through a national sports coordination, the National Olympic Committee).
  - o Fight against illegal betting.
  - o Set up some conflicts of interest rules and first of all betting prohibition (on their sport or competition) for all the sports stakeholders (players, referees, coaches, etc.), for instance a National Code.
  - o Developing enhanced cooperation between sports organisations and Szerencsejáték (monopoly on sports betting) about betting expertise and monitoring.



# APPENDIX

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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