

SEMINAR “FIGHT AGAINST MATCH FIXING”

Date: 14 April 2014

Place: Lisbon (Portugal)

Participants: cf. appendix

Main issues raised during the seminar:

Level of match fixing risk and awareness:

- The match fixing risk in Portugal is considered from quite low to very high, depending on the participants;
- There seems to be a quite low level of awareness about match fixing in Portugal, essentially because many participants don't think that sport could face corruption by organised crime, especially for betting-related purposes. Representatives of sports movement stressed the fact that there is still a strong need of additional information.

Who has to fight against match fixing?

- In Portugal, public authorities strongly respect the autonomy of sports organisations. But a representative of the State specified that public authorities have to assume their responsibilities, especially in betting related match fixing cases. If there are strong public order risks, concerning match fixing for instance, “freedom of circulation has to be limited”.
- From its part, 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).
- Portugal had to face some match fixing cases in the past but none of them were related to betting (they fell under active or passive corruption).
- The idea of developing new strong measures to protect sports integrity and to share information in a national cooperative way is considered important by all participants.
- Portugal takes part to the negotiations of the EPAS convention to fight against match fixing and expressed strong support to the project, asking for practical procedures of cooperation. The representative of the State Secretariat of Sport, who was representing Portugal at the EPAS drafting group, expressed global support to the European model of sport.

Sports betting:

- A few participants had a good level of expertise in betting.

- In Portugal, there is a system of monopoly for (offline and online) betting, awarded to Santa Casa. At the moment, only pari-mutuel betting (Totobola) is authorised in Portugal. There is a reflection about the possibility to introduce fixed odds betting in a short future.
- Portugal doesn't really fight against illegal betting. Several participants mentioned that illegal betting is not considered as something dangerous regarding public order risks in Portugal. The Santa Casa executive administrator asked for concrete measures against illegal betting operators.

Measures to protect sports integrity:

- Participants give overwhelming support to education and information measures. Representatives of the Criminal Police and the Ministry of Justice stressed this issue, insisting on a double need of prevention and repression.
- Football has already set up an information programme to prevent match fixing: Education sessions (first of all with younger players but not with professional football players at the moment), regulations (with severe sanctions not going to ban for life), monitoring of betting (through SportRadar and UEFA), etc. A representative of football insisted on the need to develop enhanced report procedures for the players (even if a hotline platform already exists in Portugal).
- There is a sports ethics action plan (coordinated by the Portuguese Institute of Sport and youth) working like an umbrella for the whole country. More precisely, it is an educational (what means with long term objectives) governmental programme focusing on sports values and 5 different axes:
 - o Education and training sessions aiming at raising awareness (targets: teachers of primary and secondary education, parents, sports agents, etc.);
 - o Organisation of sports events encouraging the experience of ethical values (e.g. one in cooperation with the Red Cross);
 - o Development of multiple contests on sports ethics (journalists, digital artists, filmmakers, etc.);
 - o Publications, Research (studies on the ethics of sport) and Digital Platforms (dedicated website)
 - o Creation of various campaigns (e.g. TV, radio, metro) on ethics in sport, targeting sports actors but also parents.

In the future, the Institute plans to set up a code of sports ethics targeting different categories of sport actors.

The 2013 budget of the action plan was around 100.000 Euros (advertising space has been offered by the media).

- The National Olympic Committee would like to develop some integrity projects but explained that there is a need of money. It is trying to find some financial partners (EC through Erasmus call for project, ICSS for instance).
- In Portugal, there is a dedicated criminal legislation for active and passive corruption in sport, trade in influence in sport and the commission of these offences by criminal organizations (Law n°50/2007 of 31st August). Sanctions are quite important: Imprisonment of up to 5 years, which could be aggravated, applying to all the sports actors: leaders, coaches, athletes, referees, etc.
- The representatives of the financial unit from the Criminal investigation Department explained that they had no specific case to deal with in sport.

- Representatives from the Criminal Police explained that there should be clear rules so that athletes cannot bet on their own sport (even if practically this is very difficult to check because friends, family, etc. can still bet).

Measures	Existing (Yes / No)
Betting: Fight against illegal betting	NO (no operational actions at the moment)
Betting: Authorised list of bets	YES (strong restrictions – Only pari-mutuel betting is authorised at the moment)
Betting: Other restrictions (pay out)	YES (strong restrictions apply to Santa Casa, the Lottery operating Totobola)
Sport: Education programs	YES for football (rugby to be implemented soon thanks to the IRB project)
Betting prohibition for sport actors	YES (at least for football, rugby, tennis through ITF rules)
Conflicts of interest: Disclosure of inside information	IDEM
Integrity officer	YES (at least Sports Confederation, and football)
Sport: Prohibition to control betting operators	NO
Criminal offence & Sanctions	YES (dedicated offence for active and passive sports corruption, trade in influence in sports and the commission of these offences by criminal organizations are foreseen in Law 51 / 2007)
Betting: Prohibition to control sports when bets are offered	NO
Contract between sport and betting	NO
Intelligence and monitoring	YES in football (through UEFA / SportRadar)

Next steps and recommendations:

Portugal may possibly look into the 5 following priority items:

- o Implementation of official cooperation at a national level (towards a national action plan), for example through a specific working group (proposal: representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Interior, Justice and Sport, of the National Olympic Committee and the Sports Confederation, of the main sports federations and of Santa Casa, the legal betting operator). The aim of this group could be to think jointly about model rules, conflicts of interests procedures and measures to fight against match fixing.
- o Appointment of an “integrity officer” in each “big” sport Federation.
- o Implementation of education programmes focusing on face-to-face (players, referees) and “train the trainers” in the main federations (including first of all professional football teams).
- o Strongly fight against illegal betting operators through operational measures (black list of illegal operators, IP and/or payment blocking for instance).
- o Development of enhanced cooperation between sports organisations and Santa Casa about betting expertise and betting related risks.

APPENDIX

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