

Declaration of gambling regulators of Austria, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and Great Britain

On June 11 and 12, 2024, we, the Austrian, French, German, Portuguese (Serviço de Regulação e Inspeção de Jogos), Spanish and British gambling regulators, met in Vienna to discuss several issues related to gambling regulation. In particular, we discussed scratchcards and jurisprudence of The European Court of Justice (ECJ).

- With regard to preliminary ruling from the ECJ running in various countries, we want to recall that, while the European Union guarantees the freedom to provide services and the freedom of establishment, including for gambling companies, the European Court of Justice has recognized that Member States may impose proportionate restrictions on these freedoms to regulate gambling, and especially to protect gamblers through national laws. However, many of us have seen more and more challenges to these principles in our various jurisdictions, notably through some preliminary ruling procedures. We now wish to cooperate, or even intervene, in these proceedings to ensure that the Court's case law protecting players is respected.
- As regard to scratch card games, we, the Austrian, French, Spanish and British regulators noted in our jurisdictions a significant size of this type of game. They may appear as harmless to the public, often shared between parents and minors, but they are a gambling product which carries risk. Considering these considerations, we commit ourselves today to working together in order to ensure effective implementation of our national regulations for players' protection, especially for minors that should not be introduced to gambling through this type of offer.