



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

MODERNISATION OF THE SINGLE MARKET
Public Interest Services

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[grow.ddg2.e.2\(2019\)582255](mailto:grow.ddg2.e.2(2019)582255)

Diego Cayota
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Madrid
Spain

By email: ask+request-6179-0ac48822@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2018/6737

Dear Mr Cayota,

We refer to your e-mail dated 12 December 2018 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 13 December 2018 under the above mentioned reference number, and to our reply dated 10 January 2019, in which we announced that an extended time limit is needed as some of the documents requested originate from a Member State which had to be consulted.

You request documents containing the following information:

- All the European Commission legislative proposal and policy initiatives done with the assistance of the Expert Group on Gambling Services since the group's creation;
- Specify which European Union countries have adopted each one of the European Commission legislative proposal and policy initiatives about gambling services; and
- All the documents of the Expert Group on Gambling Services since the group's creation related with Spain.

For your information, in the field of gambling, it is important to note that there is no sector-specific EU gambling legislation. Member States are free to regulate their gambling activities as long as they are in line with the rules on the internal market as established by the Treaties and as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the EU. The Commission supports Member States in their efforts to modernise their national online gambling legal frameworks and ensuring protection of consumers, and to facilitate cooperation between national gambling regulators.

The expert group on gambling services, to which your request relates, was set up in 2012 and its mandate expired at the end of 2018. This group provided the Commission with advice and expertise for the preparation of policy initiatives and facilitated the exchange of regulatory experience and good practices between the participating countries. Preparatory work in this group led to the adoption of a Commission **Recommendation** on principles for the protection of consumers and

players of online gambling services and for the prevention of minors from gambling online (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014H0478>), the conclusion of an **administrative Cooperation Arrangement** between the gambling regulatory authorities of the EU/EEA Member States concerning online gambling services (<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/33582>) and the adoption of **standardisation request** to the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) as regards a European standard in support of supervision of online gambling services by the gambling regulatory authorities of the Member States (<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/mandates/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.detail&id=581>) We enclose links to these documents.

The Recommendation as such is non-binding, but Member States are invited to apply the principles set out therein in their national gambling regulations. Concerning the administrative Cooperation Arrangement, most gambling regulators are signatories thereto, and Appendix 1 thereof contains a list of participating authorities. As regards the standardisation request, work is currently ongoing through the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), and to which most Member States participate, in order to elaborate and draft the requested, voluntary standard.

The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) has identified two presentations given in the Expert group on gambling services in relation to Spain, and a response from the Spanish authorities regarding information pursuant to paragraph 52 of Commission Recommendation of 14 July 2014 on principles for the protection of consumers and players of online gambling services and for the prevention of minors from gambling online, submitted to the European Commission. Please find the three documents attached with this letter. The Spanish authorities have been consulted on these three documents.

Please note that these documents were received by the Commission from the Spanish authorities. They are disclosed for information only and cannot be re-used without the agreement of the originator, who holds a copyright on them. They do not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

As regards the Recommendation, administrative Cooperation Arrangement and the standardisation request, you may re-use the documents free of charge for non-commercial and commercial purposes provided that the source is acknowledged and that you do not distort the original meaning or message of the documents. Please note that the Commission does not assume liability stemming from the reuse.

Yours sincerely,



Raphaël GOULET
Head of Unit

Enclosures:

1. Presentation on "Legislative and technical requirements for consumers of gambling services" given at the 3rd meeting of the Commission's Expert Group on Gambling Services on 16 April 2013.
2. Presentation on "The player profile in Spain's online gambling market 2014" given at the 13th meeting of the Commission's Expert Group on Gambling on 26 November 2015.
3. Response from the Spanish authorities regarding information pursuant to paragraph 52 of Commission Recommendation of 14 July 2014 on principles for the protection of consumers and players of online gambling services and for the prevention of minors from gambling online.