



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **ECA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010**

Brussels, 5 July 2010 --- Representatives of the European casino industry met in France from 23-24 June 2010 at the brand new Hôtel Casino Barrière de Lille for this year's annual Summer Meeting of the European Casino Association.

#### **Regulatory Developments**

The General Assembly began with a review of current regulatory developments at EU level. This was expanded with a report on recent casino and gaming related jurisprudence from the European Court of Justice, general lobbying activities and the actions of other gaming industry related bodies in Brussels.

#### **Online Gaming**

The debate then turned to the online gaming situation in Europe. With their extensive experience in the offline gaming sector, many of the European casino companies represented by the ECA are preparing to enter the online gaming market when the necessary changes or additions have been made to the regulatory framework in their jurisdictions. The ECA will lobby to ensure that any national or EU legislation allows its members to expand into this. Online gaming legislation has to respect existing national licensing regulations and practices, and the ECA can provide appropriate advice and information to any national institutions seeking to do so.

#### **Year in Review**

In his review of the previous year's activities, ECA President Ron Goudsmit emphasised the association's success in Brussels and its constant networking activities with the respective authorities, political parties and opinion leaders. Regarding casino gambling, the ECA will continue its efforts to ensure educated decision-making at EU level and communicate its members' standpoints, data and information to decision-makers.

After two days of workshops, presentations by online gaming and future trend experts the General Assembly closed on 24 June. The ECA Board will begin implementing the agreed goals at its meeting on 14 July 2010, which will take place in Madrid.

#### **About the ECA**

The ECA represents the interests of almost 1,000 casinos and about 80,000 employees in 23 countries across Europe. Founded in the early 1990s as the European Casino Forum, the ECA has grown steadily over the years and today

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includes members from the majority of the EU's member states and from Switzerland and Serbia. The ECA's main purpose and objective is to address and promote issues related to casinos and/or casino operations and, in doing so, to provide a focal point on casino matters for casino operators as well as for EU and national policy makers and stakeholders.

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