



FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY

Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"
First Vice President of the European Commission, Mr Frans Timmermans

Brussels, 5 July 2018

RE: The European Lotteries Association's input to the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently"

Dear Vice-President of the European Commission Timmermans,

Dear members of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently",

On behalf of the European Lotteries Association (hereinafter 'EL') I would hereby like to share our views for your consideration.

EL is the umbrella organisation of national lotteries operating games of chance for the public benefit in more than 40 European countries – including all EU Member States – and is by far the largest European umbrella organisation representative in the field of gambling. The EL Members contribute annually over 80 billion euros to (inter)national good causes and state budgets. This money is widely supporting grassroots sports, in particular grassroots sport, cultural heritage, health care, education and many other important fields.

Gambling has been repeatedly recognised by the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU), the European Parliament and the Council as an economic sector of a special nature, regulation of which has the subsidiarity principle at its very core. This primacy of the subsidiarity principle in the regulation of the gambling sector manifested itself through gambling sector being regularly explicitly exempted from the scope of a number of EU legislative pieces.

Subsidiarity in the gambling sector implies that Member States have the exclusive competence to set the objectives of their gambling policy and to define the modalities to achieve these objectives, provided that national regulatory frameworks comply with EU law and internal market principles and rules. It also means that Member States have the right to restrict gambling services where necessary.

EL fully supports the continued application of the principle of subsidiarity in the gambling sector and urges your Task force to follow this opinion. This allows for culturally, societally and morally diverse nature of Member States to be taken into account when pursuing the objectives of consumer protection, protection of minors, fight against gambling

[The European Lotteries](#)

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addiction, strengthening online security, combating of irregularities, illegal operators and fraud and maintaining public order. The subsidiarity principle in the gambling sector is the guarantee for proper player protection and, as a result of a national gambling policy, the funding of the civil society.

I thank you for the attention you are giving to our perspective on subsidiarity and I look forward to reading your final recommendations on this important matter.

I of course remain at your disposal in case you should have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



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