



Brussels, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Press Release

## European Horseracing Industry's concerns

### Pari Mutuel/Tote model securing the funding of horseracing activities

Horseracing professionals have gathered in Brussels on 6<sup>th</sup> March to express their growing concerns on the evolution of the gambling market.

Across Europe, horseracing and betting are intertwined. The relationship was from the beginning based on a fair return to horseracing ensuring the viability of the sport. Such economic responsibility is threatened by the ongoing legal uncertainty of the sector and by online operators that do not contribute and are not submitted to the same supervising rules.

European Pari Mutuel operators represent the main source of income for racing in Europe with a contribution around 1,5 billion € per year. The financial support goes to a **long value chain, which needs stable incomes**.

Although betting practices exist in many different ways throughout Europe, **Pari Mutuel/Tote system is by far the most developed for horserace betting and its benefits such as transparency, respect of integrity and neutrality** were emphasized on 6<sup>th</sup> March by many professionals of the sector, breeders, trainers, racing authorities from Sweden, France, Norway, Germany, Spain.

Horseracing professionals call on the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, to recognise urgently the need for a clear and coherent legal and regulatory framework, guaranteeing:

- A fair return from betting to the racing on which it is promoted or offered;
- The protection of the future integrity of the sport.

Mr Jacques Toubon as rapporteur of the session underlined the importance of such event, a first step towards a political dialogue on this issue between EU institutions.

EPMA members fully support the professionals in their search for protection and clarity and will bring forward their expertise to the future legal and economic debate.

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Members of EPMA are present in 10 countries, traditionally active in developing the horse races and horse breeding (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom). They wish to share their common concerns about developing efficient regulations taking into account the promotion of the equine sector and consumer's fairness and protection.

*AB Trav. Galopp (ATG), Sweden - Amministrazione Autonoma Dei Monopoli Di Stato (A.A.M.S.), Italy - Fintoto Oy, Finland, German Tote GmbH, Germany - Société de la Loterie de la Suisse Romande Suisse - Foundation Norsk Risktoto, Norway - Pari Mutuel Urbain (P.M.U.), France - Horserace Totalisator Board, Great Britain - Tote Ireland Limited, Ireland - Trab Renn Sport AG (TRS), Germany - Unione Nazionale Incremento Razze Equine (U.N.I.R.E.), Italy, Wiener Trabrennverein, Austria.*



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