

PMU director-general defends pool-betting

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FRENCH PMU director-general Bertrand Belinguier, whose organisation has faced a challenge from new forms of betting and gaming in recent years, defended the pool-betting system for its popularity and support for horseracing.

Drawing on a white paper produced by the European Pari-Mutuel Association, of which he is chairman, he pointed out that pools account for 78 per cent of the world's horserace betting, and from its turnover €1.5 billion was re-invested to the horse industry and racing in Europe last year.

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He said the European Pari-Mutuel Association had to work to a clear set of principles on betting, notably that proper

funding was essential for the sustainable development of horseracing and other sports, that strict regulation must be maintained at national level, and that the European Union should strive towards a high level of protection of integrity in sport.

The white paper can be viewed online at parimutuel-europe.org.