



Brussels, 16 June 2009

Press Release

EPMA will contribute to the work programme of the future Swedish Presidency

European Pari Mutuel operators **favour the decision of the Swedish government to continue discussions inside the Working Party on Establishment and Services on the legal framework for gambling and betting.** The group initiated by the former French Presidency has announced 4 meetings from July to December 2009. It is an opportunity for Member States to exchange on the ongoing national reforms (France, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Denmark...).

After the adoption of the European Parliament report on the integrity of online gambling last March, the Member States should continue to debate with the European Commission towards a political solution.

The approach of EPMA, as stated in its White Paper, is precisely to agree on common positions on responsible gaming rules and tools, on integrity preservation by controlling the forms of betting and preventing illegal activities, on the recognition of the right of sport event organisers to get a fair return on betting revenues generated.

As betting operators, Pari Mutuel organisations have a dual objective, offering the best entertainment value to bettors in a fair and moderate way and serving the European horseracing industry in its long-term development. EPMA will continue to contribute to the debate this summer.

EPMA will also be represented at a Conference **supported by the Swedish government and many Horse related organisations: EU Equus 2009 - The Future of the Horse Industry in Rural Areas and Society - 29-30 October 2009 in Uppsala.**

The importance of the horse industry in Europe will be enhanced at EU Equus 2009 with presentation of recent and useful data highlighting the European Horse Industry from an economic, environmental/ecological and social perspective. It will also spotlight the social values of the Horse Industry in society, the role of the horse in the Rural Development policy and legislation with impact on the Horse Industry conditions.

For more information on EPMA and on EU Equus 2009: www.parimutuel-europe.org

Members of EPMA are present in 10 countries, traditionally active in developing horseracing 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 Rikstoto, 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.



Contact: Florence Gras – EPMA – European Pari Mutuel Association – Square de Meeûs, 40 – 1000 Brussels –
Tel : +32 2 401 61 65 - e-mail : florence.gras@parimutuel-europe.org – www.parimutuel-europe.org