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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dutch Gaming Tax Proposals Constitute Illegal State Aid

The European Amusement and Gaming Federation EUROMAT has joined its Dutch member, the VAN Kansspelen Branche-organisatie, in filing a formal state aid complaint to the European Commission. The complaint argues that the Dutch Government will violate EU law if it allows online gambling companies to benefit from a tax rate of 20% compared to the 29% currently paid by their land-based competitors.

The filing sets the scene for a fiery debate at [EUROMAT's Gaming Summit](#) on the 28th of May in Amsterdam. The Dutch State Secretary for Security and Justice [Klaas Dijkhoff](#) is set to give a key note speech at the event and is likely to receive a tough reception from industry operators who feel that this proposal is simply an unjustified subsidy for online companies.

EUROMAT President Annette Kok warned that the Dutch Government's reasoning simply doesn't add up 'The Dutch Government has failed to demonstrate that this aid is necessary. Online operators will have to enter regulated markets and pay the applicable tax rates if they want to grow; for that reason licences will be attractive to online operators even if they have to pay the same tax as land-based businesses. The Dutch Government has provided no evidence to the contrary'.

Mrs. Kok questions whether the aid will be consistent with the 'common interest objectives' of the Dutch Government: 'If they are allowed to push this through all they will achieve is a huge boost to the marketing budgets of international online operators who don't need the Dutch Government's help to remain competitive. Rather than channeling demand into regulated products, the Dutch Government is only going to succeed in increasing consumption overall with a likely rise in the risk of problem gambling'.

Commenting on the decision to file, EUROMAT Secretary General Kieran O'Keeffe said: 'EUROMAT is taking a stand against a national policy decision which we believe is non-compliant with European law and is not in the interests of European consumers or our members.'

'Europe's land-based private sector is united in its opposition to a proposal which unfairly discriminates against bricks and mortar businesses with no evidence to suggest that it will fulfil the intended objectives'.

Press Release Ends

Notes to editors:

The European Gaming and Amusement Federation (EUROMAT) is the voice of the land-based [gaming entertainment industry in Europe](#). A highly regulated and highly taxed industry sector contributing more than 250,000 jobs across Europe. The organisation was established in 1979 to represent, through its affiliated national associations, private sector operators of gaming machines and the manufacturers that supply them. Today, EUROMAT has [16 national member associations](#) from 11 European countries.

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