

Seizing the initiative

The Commission may have lost focus on national infringement cases on gambling but it has cash payment firmly in its sights, writes Euromat president **Jason Frost**

RUMOURS that the European Commission is about to close infringement cases against several European countries that apply restrictions on gambling establishment and licensing will disappoint the online gambling sector in particular.

The cases were opened in 2013 and have been the primary focus of the Commission's work on gambling since.

Their closure, on the basis that the Commission no longer regards them as a priority, suggests that there is little appetite to clash with member states on an area of policy that remains controversial for many.

However, while the Commission seems unwilling to tackle national gambling laws that might conflict with the internal market, it still has the capacity to shape our business environment in fundamental ways. Euromat joined the banking sector and retailers at a roundtable in Brussels in October to discuss Commission plans for a legislative proposal to restrict high-value cash payments. It will be next year before we see anything substantial on this but it is another indication that cash is under regulatory pressure, as well as moving out of favour with consumers and even the banks themselves.



This is a warning that Euromat does not take lightly. Our industry needs to take the initiative on payments and make the case to regulators for reasonable flexibility within safe parameters. The Commission's new initiative on cash provides us with further impetus for change.