

## GREF ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013-2014

February 2013

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#### **A. Introduction**

GREF's annual work programme aims to enhance transparency for members and external stakeholders of GREF's priorities and anticipated work for 2013-2014.

The GREF Board has approved the final programme during its Executive Board meeting which took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in London. The final programme reflects the views expressed by members during the consultation phase (the period December 2012- mid January 2013), all of which were supportive of the proposals.

The 2013-2014 work programme remains built around the current GREF meetings structure, maintaining a format that has been functioning well in the last years;

- Five or six plenary themes. These covers areas of relevance to all members, for discussion at the May-June meeting. The specific topics will be decided ahead of each meeting and the format would normally be that of one or several keynote speakers and/or a panel of regulators; and
- Three permanent working groups. The format may vary from a roundtable discussion, presentations by external speakers or individual presentations by members;

- A possible ad-hoc working group depending on whether the membership wants one (and can give examples of possible topics) AND if any jurisdiction or person volunteers to take the lead.
- With the purpose of raising awareness of GREF and in order to make GREF a bit more than a “once a year organization” the Board has decided that the Forum each year should invite a noted scholar/person to hold a lecture (GREF Lecture of 20XX) that would make a significant contribution to public awareness and understanding and further development of the art of regulating gambling. The Board has decided that the first Lecture will be given at a reception in London on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 (since many regulators at that time participate in the ICE-Conference anyway).

## **B. Plenary themes for 2013**

The Board has been discussing what Plenary Themes would be most appropriate for the Annual Meeting in Riga 2013. In its’ deliberations the Board has considered input from the IAGR Conference in Singapore as well as the Action Plan on online gambling that has been presented by the European Commission. The Board has decided the following Plenary Themes for the next Annual Meeting:

- EU-update and cooperation between regulators
- Crossborder crime in gambling
- Social gaming
- Training of regulators/officers

## **C Working groups for 2013-2014**

GREF will keep the format of three permanent working groups and, possibly, one ad-hoc group per meeting. For the three permanent groups the work will be led by one or two co-chairs, who will coordinate work during the year (primarily via email) and chair the relevant session during GREF meetings and could have meetings in between annual GREF meetings (e.g. during ICE in London). The scope, timeline, outputs and deliveries will vary depending on the issue and on the interest and input

from working group members. It is expected of the members in a working group that they will participate actively and contribute to the work to be done. Where appropriate, the outputs and deliveries will be made available by publication on the website of GREF. The Board will sponsor the work of the individual working groups to oversee progress and support the co-chairs/lead jurisdiction (if ad-hoc group).

**WG1: E-gambling and technical issues** (permanent working group, i.e. convening twice – with parallel email group)

Purpose: The Working Group on E-Gambling and Technical Issues (WGEGTI) will exchange views and share information to develop a better understanding of eGambling to identify good practices to address risks associated with e-gambling and technical issues while taking account of varying legal and policy constraints on members.

Co-chairs: Paul Morris (UK Gambling Commission) and Peter Geertsen (Netherlands Gaming Authority).

Envisaged outputs: To be discussed with the members of the group. This could range from development of new mechanisms for cooperation and exchange of information to contribute to the EC Action plan to the production of a report identifying challenges and highlighting interesting cases and best practices. Possibly a Poker networks paper – options/possible conditions for sharing liquidity.

Topics to be discussed:

- poker networks / liquidity
- protection of player funds
- exchange of information (eg MOUs)
- social gaming
- cloud computing
- sharing of test results

Furthermore the Working Group will actively look into the work of the EU Expert Group for possible contributions to the work and the

discussions of this Expert Group, also with a focus on possible further cooperation between jurisdictions.

The working Group will exchange information and discuss results with the IAGR E-gambling Working Group on topics of common interest.

Finally, a glossary with definitions and explanations will be developed by the Working Group by means of keeping a list of explanations of the terms used in discussion papers at hand.

**WG2: Responsible gambling** (permanent working group, i.e. convening twice – with parallel email group)

Purpose: Discussing the topics addressed by the EU Commission regarding the protection of consumers and citizens, mainly ensuring the protection of minors, enhancing responsible advertising, reducing problem gambling or gambling addiction

Also: Echoing some topics addressed by previous work done in the working group, the group will promote the exchange of best practices.

Co-chair/Co-chairs: Janja Jereb, Barbara Masquelier and Ruth Callaghan

Envisaged output: Development of an informal network of experts and regulatory officers across GREF members, comparative paper on how national legislation deal with responsible gambling, paper about the value and importance of adequate regulation of this issue, practical guide on best practices regarding regulation, some GREF position statements on responsible gaming.

### **WG3: Statistics and information**

Purpose: Development and maintenance of an informal network of experts and regulatory officers across GREF members to exchange views and to provide – on a yearly basis – relevant statistical information from the GREF member states. Some of the information is also published.

Co-chair/Co-chairs: Reto Brand and Jonny Engebö

Envisaged output: The basic output of the WG is the “European Gambling Survey” (of the year 20xx), a file on an MS Excel basis containing relevant information on regulatory and market issues of most (or all) of the GREF member states. The WG InfoStat may also produce relevant information on the primary legislation of the member states as well as other papers or presentations on issues in the statistical and/or information field.

Topics to be discussed:

- Social Gaming /Gambling
- Cross country gaming – crime prevention and law enforcement
- Knowledge of needs and focus among regulators as basis for themes for the conferences to come
- Other items – as the gambling market is continuously changing WG InfoStat can regularly change or add focus areas

**WG4: Ad-hoc Working Group** (i.e. two groups convening just once – NO parallel email group)

The fourth Working Group will address ad-hoc themes on the occasion of the GREF-meeting in Riga. This type of group provides an opportunity to discuss topical subjects and requires less involvement and lighter preparation work for the RA lead than a permanent group.

The working group in Riga will deal with either X or Y.

Purpose:

Lead jurisdiction/Co-chair/Co-chairs: