

First criminal e-gambling decision handed down

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in: *World eBusiness Law Report*, 11 April 2002

The District Court of Arnhem has handed down the Netherlands' first ruling on e-gambling in criminal proceedings.

In this case (LJN AD8104), the accused, a gambling house, provided online gambling consoles. Internet access was arranged through a system of chip cards. The chip cards were debited when the consoles were used, but also credited if the player won.

The court considered this a breach of the Betting and Gaming Act which requires a license for gambling activities and, consequently, a breach of the Act on Economic Offences. The owner of the gambling house was fined €4,500.

Earlier this year the Ministry of Justice announced that existing gambling legislation will be amended in light of the rapid developments in the electronic environment*.

* see Dinant T.L. Oosterbaan, 'Dutch internet gambling set for regulation', in: *World eBusiness Law Report*, 28 January 2002

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