

## Dutch internet gambling set for regulation

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The Ministry of Justice has announced that existing legislation on betting and gaming will be amended to take account of online gambling in the Netherlands. A proposal for amendments to the Betting and Gaming Act 1964 is expected by spring.

Betting and gaming activities are already strictly regulated in the Netherlands. A license is required, and these are only issued if strict requirements are met. As a result, only a few players are active in the national market. To date, no licenses to organize betting and gaming on the Internet have been provided.

The government recognizes that as a result of technological advances such as the Internet, enforcement of the existing act has become difficult. The Internet has created an international environment which makes it easy for someone to supply the Dutch market with online betting and gaming activities, without having to adhere to Dutch legislation. Bearing this in mind, the government proposes to amend the act to make it possible to organize and monitor online betting and gaming in the Netherlands and, at the same time, protect consumers.

The following provisions may be introduced:

- A handful of providers of betting and gaming activities will be licensed for two to three years;
  - A special committee will supervise their activities;
  - Potential new providers will be strictly screened and a system of certification will be developed for those who are approved;
  - Providers will be monitored by means of continuous random sampling, in order to ensure that they adhere to license conditions;
  - Consumers will be digitally monitored and may only be entitled to play with a maximum amount of money (and may be forbidden from playing in the event of major losses); and
  - Information on gambling addiction, along with banner ads with addresses and telephone numbers of aid societies, will be placed on gambling websites.
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