

DGAP-News: bet-at-home.com AG

- Online poker was launched successfully
- Taking a stand in the legal developments in Germany and Austria

Recently, bet-at-home.com Entertainment Ltd. in Malta has started to offer online poker on its website www.bet-at-home.com.

Online poker is increasing in popularity in Europe. London-based economic consultants MECN have estimated that already around 5 million people play online poker worldwide.

Germany:

Some German states are planning, by means of state laws, to prohibit private providers of games of chance from offering their services. Even though some prime ministers have been speaking about market liberalisation, it is possible that state laws prohibiting private providers to offer their services will be nonetheless be ratified. EU Commissioner Charlie McCreevy, responsible for Internal Market does not want to accept German state laws on lottery monopolies. He has threatened to fight an eventual infringement procedure upto the highest instance. The planned state laws discriminate private providers, remarked the Irish politician in a statement to German newspaper "Der Spiegel". These state laws are in conflict with the freedom to provide services within the internal market and are therefore in conflict with European Law. No one can stop Germany from implementing strict regulations in relation to gaming. "There should be regulations that are valid in the same way for state-owned as well as private operators" remarked McCreevy. In the meantime, the EU Commission has made a start with infringement procedures against eight member states (amongst which is also Austria), said McCreevy. "I do hope that we don't have to take the case upto the highest instance with all the member states. But when the states do not comply by themselves, we will do so." (source: Der Spiegel)

Some time earlier, Damaso Ruiz-Jarabo Colomer, the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) had already lifted the spirits of the private operators by stating that state monopolies infringe the freedom to provide services.

Austria:

The Austrian daughter company bet-at-home.com Entertainment AG was reported by the "Association of Anonymous Players" on the grounds of illegal games of chance. The management board considers the charges very weak and is considering to press

charges on defamation, libel and damage to the image of the company. A legal opinion on this case is available for download, written by the in Austria well-known expert on the field of constitutional and administrative law, University Prof. DDr. Heinz Mayer in conjunction with Dr. Schwartz. This legal opinion reaches a clear conclusion. bet-at-home.com is allowed to offer its services also in Austria. The legal opinion is available for download on the investor relations website www.bet-at-home.ag.

About bet-at-home.com AG:

bet-at-home.com AG is a gambling company with offices in Germany, Austria and Malta. Through its daughter companies, the company holds a casino and sports betting license that is issued by EU country Malta. Sports betting and casino games are offered at the web portal www.bet-at-home.com, while horse betting is offered at www.racebets.com.

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