

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002534/26
to the Commission
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(18 June 2026)**

Subject: Online gambling: protecting EU citizens, promoting the integrity of the single market and safeguarding tax fairness

In recent years, the gambling sector has become increasingly digital. Despite the cross-border nature of such services, online gambling remains primarily regulated at national level. This fragmentation fails to address spillover effects, given that companies can establish themselves in jurisdictions with lenient regulations while providing services across the EU.

The current situation creates an uneven playing field and can undermine both consumer protection and taxation laws. Furthermore, lack of regulation enables aggressive marketing of these services, posing a risk to consumers, particularly young people, while potentially leading to addiction and rapid debt accumulation.

1. Does the Commission recognise the need for a harmonised regulatory framework for online gambling at EU level to address cross-border spillover effects and ensure a level playing field for all enterprises?
2. What specific issues can be addressed at EU level to strengthen consumer protection, notably by restricting aggressive advertising and preventing gambling-induced addiction and debt accumulation?
3. How can the taxation of cross-border digital gambling operators be improved to ensure that they pay a fair share of taxes in the Member States where their consumers are located?

Submitted: 18.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(3 September 2026)**

While there is no sector-specific EU legislation on gambling, Member States have established national rules, including on restricting gambling advertising and the European Court of Justice has recognised their right to restrict online gambling services where necessary ⁽¹⁾. The Commission supports Member States in their efforts to modernise their online gambling legal frameworks and facilitate cooperation between regulators.

Moreover, the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive ⁽²⁾ (UCPD) may be relevant in this context as it prohibits misleading or aggressive advertising affecting consumers' transactional decisions and may consider that such advertising targets vulnerable consumers, including minors. The protection of minors is also a priority under the upcoming Digital Fairness Act ⁽³⁾.

Users can notify gambling advertisements they believe are illegal, under applicable national laws or the UCPD using the notice and action mechanism of the Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽⁴⁾. DSA guidelines ⁽⁵⁾ recommend preventing access to age-restricted content (including gambling) and exposure to practices encouraging addictive behaviour.

The Commission continues to raise awareness of Member States to enhance administrative cooperation between tax authorities, such as exchange of tax information and use of the Central Electronic System of Payment Information ⁽⁶⁾ for Value Added Tax purposes.

Finally, taxation entails different collection models across the supply chain. How these operate in the internal market is under examination, and a dedicated study is planned.

⁽¹⁾ See e.g. Judgment of the Court (Sixth Chamber) of 28 February 2018 in Case C-3/17, ECLI:EU:C:2018:130, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1529074281898&uri=CELEX:62017CJ0003>.

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/29/oj>.

⁽³⁾ For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14622-Digital-Fairness-Act_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022R2065>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202505519.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/sites/spaces/DIGITAL/pages/956170721/CESOP>.