



Notification Number: 2014/124/E

## Draft Ministerial Order approving the basic regulations for slot machines.

Date received : 18/03/2014  
End of Standstill : 19/06/2014  
Issue of comments by : Commission, Malta

### Message

Message 002

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2014) 00781

Directive 98/34/EC

Translation of the message 001

Notification: 2014/0124/E

No abre el plazo - Nezaahajuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - He ce предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201400781.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 002 IND 2014 0124 E EN 18-03-2014 E NOTIF

#### 2. Member State

E

#### 3. Department Responsible

Subdirección General de Asuntos Industriales, Energéticos, de Transportes, Comunicaciones y Medio Ambiente.

Dirección General de Coordinación de Políticas Comunes y de Asuntos Generales de la Unión Europea. Secretaría de Estado para la Unión Europea.

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación.

C/ Serrano Galvache, 26, 4ª planta, Torre Sur (28071 Madrid)

Teléfonos: 91 379 84 64 y 91 379 17 80

Fax: 91 379 84 01

Dirección correo electrónico: d83-189@ue.maec.es



### 3. Originating Department

Dirección General de Ordenación del Juego.  
Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas.

### 4. Notification Number

2014/0124/E - H10

### 5. Title

Draft Ministerial Order approving the basic regulations for slot machines.

### 6. Products Concerned

The draft order establishes the basic rules for the development and exploitation, at State level, of slot machines.

### 7. Notification Under Another Act

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### 8. Main Content

This Ministerial Order develops regulations aimed primarily at protecting participants and public interests relating to gambling activities, in particular the protection of minors and dependants, the prevention of gambling addiction and the fulfilment of the provisions of Law 10/2010 of 28 April on the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Certain measures have been established in this regard in order to encourage responsible gambling, in the form, for instance, as stated in Article 14, of permitting only the formation of progressive jackpots, as well as the obligation of participants to initially configure their gambling session, the operator's obligation to notify the participant at regular intervals of the time spent on the session, in determining the minimum duration of each game. Similarly, Article 8, relating to the operator's reporting obligations, addresses in detail the promotion of responsible gambling, establishing, in relation to other types of gambling, new reporting obligations on certain points, in particular on the maximum and minimum amounts of each game, the amount gambled and prizes received in each session, the jackpots on offer and those already awarded, on the mode of development of each game, on the description of the winning combinations and the prizes assigned to each combination, and indicating at all times the amount of playing credit and money transactions.

This Ministerial Order is divided into four chapters, fifteen articles and three final provisions.

Chapter I contains the general provisions and includes the definitions that are useful for understanding the text.

Chapter II refers to the permits that operators interested in developing and operating slot machines must have, establishing that they must obtain a general licence for the "Other Games" category and the corresponding unique licence. This chapter also establishes that the unique licence will be valid for five years, renewable for periods of an identical length, and empowers the Directorate-General for Gambling to determine the guarantee associated with the aforementioned licence through a resolution.

Chapter III establishes the framework for relations between the operator and participants. It also refers to the procedure for addressing and resolving complaints and grievances implemented by the operator and placed at the disposal of the participants. Furthermore, it sets out various obligations of the gambling operator towards the participant, authorises the promotion of games under the terms established in Article 7 of Law 13/2011 of 27

May, regulating gambling, and regulates the channels and means of participation.

Chapter IV establishes guidelines for the development of slot machine games, determines the financial limits to participation and the development of the game, as well as the determination, allocation and payment of prizes.

Annex I to the order approves the limits to the guarantee amounts associated with each unique licence for operating this type of gambling, which will be set at 5% to 12% of the operator's net revenue, attributable to the activity subject to the unique licence in the immediately preceding year.

Finally, this Ministerial Order contains three final provisions. The first relates to the empowerment of the Directorate-General for Gambling to issue provisions that are required for the development and implementation of this order; the second relates to the provision of services by providers of technical systems with an authorising permit; and the third relates to the entry into force of the order.

## 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

With the emergence of new channels of participation based on new electronic communication services, it becomes necessary to regulate slot machines that fall under the "Other Games" gambling category indicated in Law 13/2011 of 27 May on regulating gambling, hereinafter the LRJ.

The motivation behind such regulations is to enable the online development and operation of slot machines at State level. The LRJ states that only the unique licence may be requested, and therefore the gambling operators may only develop and operate the gambling activity for which regulations have been published at an earlier date.

In addition, it is worth noting that the regulation of slot machines or online slots was not undertaken at the initial stage of development of Law 13/2011 of 27 May regulating gambling. Since a certain amount of time has elapsed since then, its regulation was considered appropriate for a number of reasons. First, the importance of this form of gambling to consumers. Second, the corroboration of this importance on the basis of the weight of this gambling on the illegal market. And finally, the determination of the precise implications for the public interest deriving from slot machines, particularly in relation to public health.

This image is a highly complex, black-and-white abstract pattern. It consists of a dense, irregular arrangement of numerous small, black, geometric and organic shapes on a white background. The shapes vary significantly in size and form, including circles, squares, triangles, diamonds, and more complex, multi-sided polygons. Some shapes appear to be stylized letters or symbols, while others are purely geometric. The overall effect is a dense, textured surface that resembles a highly detailed woodcut or a complex digital collage. The pattern is non-repeating and lacks any discernible symmetry or regularity, creating a visually busy and intricate composition.

