2017: A year of change

2017 has been a year of transition for GLMS. Beyond the election of a new President and Executive Committee, GLMS saw changes in technical and human resources and changes in its organisational structure. This has climaxd in a new operational set up with the opening of an operational hub in Hong Kong and also changes in the monitoring system itself in January 2018, when GLMS launched a new monitoring platform, in cooperation with TXODDS.

Despite the challenges of the transition, over the year 2017, GLMS generated numerous alerts, which also culminated in a number of reports to its members and partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our monitoring operators for their great effort over the year 2017.

In the present report we present you the aggregate results of our monitoring work in the year 2017 and we take the opportunity as well for a short flash-back of the year 2017.

The year 2018 has started very dynamically for us. The operational activity will be now more efficient thanks to the engaging features of our new platform which includes a unique messaging feature. GLMS will be enhancing its services following the precious feedback from its members and will be getting more active in education and prevention initiatives. The prominent involvement in strategic projects such as the Keep Crime out of Sport (KCOOS+) led by the Council of Europe is a clear example.

You will be also regularly hearing from us through our new communication platforms and you are welcome to follow us on twitter and linkedin as well!

Yours in integrity,

Ludovico Calvi
GLMS President
A quick flashback to the year 2017

GLMS attended along EL/WLA the IOC International Forum on Sports Integrity in February 2017

An agreement with ARJEL was signed in May 2017

GLMS Members from Asia visit the Copenhagen Hub in May 2017

A new Executive Committee elected and new President, Ludovico Calvi, appointed during the GLMS General Meeting in Krakow in June

Meeting with EUROPOL in September

GLMS President speaking at the Sports Integrity Conference in Rome

GLMS President with Geoff Freeman, President and CEO of the American Gaming Association, at the USA Sports Betting Conference in November 2017

GLMS training workshop organised for Members’ trading teams in December 2017, with nearly 70 participants
GLMS Reported 145 matches throughout the year

In 2017 GLMS reported in total **145 matches to its partners** (UEFA, FIFA, IOC, TIU, ESports Integrity Coalition). Football was the sport that attracted the biggest number of reports with **77 matches** having been reported to UEFA.

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GLMS Alerts

In order to reach a report, GLMS first generates an alert, each time an irregularity in terms of betting patterns is detected. An alert generated leads to thorough consultation with the GLMS Members, as well as a deep investigation on potential grounds that could justify the irregularity detected in the odds changes. When the irregularity cannot be justified on objective grounds and also the information received from GLMS Members (also regarding the money flows) further indicate an irregularity, then GLMS issues a report.

A total of **816 alerts** were generated over the year 2017. The vast majority of these alerts were in football and in terms of timing, most of the alerts were generated in the month of May.
Can you provide the current state of play of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sport Competitions and explain its significance? (also how the Convention can be open to states outside Europe)

The Convention is currently waiting to enter into force, needing 5 ratifications from countries worldwide in order to become effective and permit the establishment of the statutory follow-up committee. Once the Convention enters into force, it will be the first international legally binding text to exist in the fight against manipulations of sports competitions. Having been drafted by over 50 countries and international organisations worldwide, the Convention gives this offence a domain of its own thus coordinating actions to prevent, detect and investigate manipulations of sports competitions by various types of stakeholders at national and transnational levels. The Convention covers all types of manipulations that impact sports competitions, ranging from on the field of action to beyond the sporting venue, from the athletes and support staff to non-sport related criminals. Like many of the Conventions of the Council of Europe, this Macolin Convention is also open to non Council of Europe Member States. It is additionally one of the only 3 Council of Europe Conventions that allows other countries to ratify the Convention and enable its entry into force, thanks to the recognition of the need for such an instrument that triggered the drafting phase in 2012. The current status of ratifications is at 3 (Norway, Portugal, Ukraine), while 30 other countries have signed, showing their commitment to rendering their legislation compliant in order to then ratify. The issue of a single EU member state blocking a ratification by EU member states of the Convention is an EU-only issue; given that the Convention includes transnational judicial co-operation, the EU member states need to vote unanimously in order to allow for a block ratification (as opposed to a traditional 2/3 qualified majority). In this case, one member state has vetoed the block ratification for unrelated reasons and other EU member states have been prevented thus from ratifying due to the principle of EU solidarity. This of course does not prevent any OTHER country from ratifying and being a full voting member of the statutory follow up committee.

What is the role of the KCOOS+ project in this regard?

The Council of Europe's Keep Crime Out of Sport Plus Project is a global initiative that aims to integrate the perspectives of all types of relevant public and private stakeholders in this domain (all ministries, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the judiciary, the sport movement, betting stakeholders) and to effectively implement the various principles of the Macolin Convention. The project which runs from 2018-2020, will enable various stakeholders worldwide to be identified and to contact each other (Macolin Clubhouse) and share good practices (Macolin Hub). the Convention covers all types of manipulations; thus the project aims to uncover the various types of manipulations of sports competitions that may exist in various regions worldwide and identify challenges as well as practices that may be implemented to tackle these challenges. It will aim to show how the Convention is a solution to tackling these challenges.
with a sound legal framework and in a coordinated and cooperative manner. It will facilitate regional co-operation and exchange of expertise through the organisation of multi country seminars, based on tackling a similar challenge and/or regional cooperation, with the accomplishment of experts, other perspectives and notably expertise from the concerned region. Specific technical assistance will also be provided to individual countries, with the aim of developing national action plans and implementing measures such as relevant legislation, analyses, co-operation structures (notably the Convention's national platform structure), notably with the aide of the KCOOS handbook, which was developed in a first phase of the project (2016–2017) and will continue to develop. Finally, the project will demonstrate, through operational activities, the necessity for and relevance of the Macolin Convention, as well as facilitate opportunities for transnational exchange, by linking beneficiaries and countries to other networks of the Council of Europe, such as the network of national platforms, network of prosecutors, networks of betting regulatory authorities and so on.

- How has GLMS and Lotteries supported so far the KCOOS+ project? What is significant about their contribution to the project? How can GLMS support the further work of national platforms and the Group of Copenhagen?

GLMS is an associate partner of the KCOOS+ project and a valued collaborator of the Council of Europe's secretariat on the manipulation of sports competitions. It has been using its expertise and its close collaboration with the Secretariat in order to disseminate accurate information concerning the Council of Europe, its Convention and the concepts of the Convention, notably the national platforms.

GLMS also works with the Council of Europe's informal network of national platforms, namely the Group of Copenhagen, that has existed since 2016 and provides information on betting-related alerts, feeding into the transnational co-operation of national platforms in the fight against manipulations during sports competitions.

GLMS warmly thanks Cassandra for this interview and is looking forward to further contributing to the KCOOS+ project as well as the work of the Group of Copenhagen.

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About GLMS

GLMS is the state lotteries’ mutualized monitoring system on sports betting. It aims at detecting and analyzing suspicious betting activities that could question the integrity of a sport competition. Building on six years of experience with the establishment in 2009 of ELMS with European Lotteries, GLMS went global in January 2015 extending the network to other continents. GLMS facilitates the sharing of sports betting information as part of the collective efforts of its members in ensuring sports integrity globally, and is dedicated to effective cooperation with all key stakeholders: regulators, law enforcement authorities, sports organizations.


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GLMS Monitoring report 2017