



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Education, Financial Services, Gaming, Telecommunications and Justice
Suite 771
Europort
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

No: 284/2012

Date: 2nd May 2012

MINISTER ATTENDS E-GAMING CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Minister with responsibility for Gambling, Gilbert Licudi QC, last week attended the GiGse Totally Gaming conference in San Francisco. GiGse is regarded as one of the world's most important gaming conferences attracting speakers and delegates from the top companies and providers in the gaming industry including several based in Gibraltar. Gibraltar's Gambling Commissioner, Phill Brear, had also been invited to moderate a panel of regulators at GiGse.

The conference covered a wide range of topics including developments in e-gaming in several US States and the importance of transparent regulatory frameworks which deal with, inter alia, age verification, anti-fraud, player protection and responsible online gaming.

A number of meetings with other delegates attending the GiGse conference had been scheduled for Mr Licudi.

Mr Licudi also attended a series of meetings in Las Vegas. Mr Licudi met with the Governor of Nevada, Brian Sandoval, and the Chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, Mark Liparelli. Mr Licudi also had meetings with two significant operators based in Las Vegas who have indicated an intention to apply for licences in Gibraltar. Further meetings took place with two Las Vegas gaming equipment testing houses.

Commenting on the visit to San Francisco and Las Vegas, Mr Licudi said:

"Attendance at the conference has been invaluable. This follows my attendance at the ICE gaming exhibition and conference in London in January. As I said when I attended that conference, it is absolutely essential that we keep up with developments in the dynamic world of internet gaming and that we continue to build relationships with major players and regulators.

Gibraltar is regarded as the most important jurisdiction in internet gaming. Our operators participate at these events and so must Gibraltar at an official level.

The US market is slowly opening up to e-gaming. Nevada is the first US State to legislate to allow intrastate internet poker. We are aware that there are a number of Gibraltar operators interested in branching out by seeking a licence in Nevada. At the same time, various Nevada-based operators are interested in being licensed in Gibraltar. It is therefore in Gibraltar's interest that we have contact with and build a solid relationship with Nevada at both a regulatory and political level.

Nevada is regarded as one of the gambling capitals of the world. In that context, it was very gratifying to be told that Nevada has a lot to learn from Gibraltar."

Mr Licudi added that Gibraltar will continue a selective approach to licensing with a high bar to entry and only the world's leading brands being considered for a licence.