

Gaming Regulation Update No. 1

We begin this first ever Gaming Regulation Update with an [excellent piece in Vegas Seven](#) and the [Las Vegas Sun](#), who look back on the life of Bob Feiss, who passed away last month. Several people sent us this - inspiring stuff for those forging careers in Gaming Regulation.

Americas

Canadian gaming group Amaya have bought the parent company of PokerStars. Forbes has [details on the deal](#), while Howard Stutz tells us this is all about [entering the Californian market](#).

Florida Governor Rick Scott has come out in strong opposition to iGaming, calling for clarification of the Federal Wire Act to ban all online gaming in the US. The [National Law Review](#) suggests that train may have already "left the station".

Meanwhile, legal developments continue apace: Pennsylvania [formally introduced their Online Gaming Bill](#) on Wednesday and although Massachusetts has issued its first casino license, voters in the state may yet repeal the casino law in November. [Telegram](#) notes that MGM have not yet been required to pay the license fee, and calls for the public to have their say.

Caribbean

Chairman of the Bahamas Gaming Board Andre Rollins MP, who many of you may remember from our Caribbean Gaming Forum 2013 in Nassau, has argued in his [budget remarks](#) that the country's decision to legalise and regulate gambling for Bahamians supports the country's AML/CFT efforts, by bringing a significant unregulated sector under regulatory oversight.

Asia Pacific

Japan began the debate to legalise casinos this week, and [Bloomberg](#) speculate that the market could be Asia's second-largest after Macau. Operators who will compete for the hotly-contested licenses [include the Philippines' Bloomberry](#).

Europe

The Belgian Gaming Commission [call for stricter regulation](#) in an open letter to the Government, Portugal expect an online gaming bill to [reach Parliament by July](#) and the Gibraltar Gambling and Betting Association is [taking legal action against the UK government](#), describing regulations set to come into force later this year as "unlawful".

It is also excellent to see responsible gaming high up the agenda in the conference schedule, with [Gaming in Holland](#) featuring the theme strongly.

Thank you

Once again, our thanks for the many messages of support for this Update. Please continue to send your articles, suggestions and feedback to gamingregulationupdate@govrisk.org and pass on the links to friends and colleagues.