

Gaming Regulation Update No. 6

This week's developments touch on the line between potential wrongdoing on the part of regulators and the regulated, and it is interesting for those in countries considering new legislation to see strong examples of how these measures may work in practice. To me, it is a reminder that there are lessons to be learned from the experience of other jurisdictions, if we can take the time to go and find them.

Asia Pacific

Prosecutors in Taiwan say a company described as a unit of Macau casino operator [Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd](#) is "suspected to have harmed" Taiwan's "financial order" and "avoided the scrutiny" of Macau's gaming regulator, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

In other news surrounding Macau, [a new court hearing in the near four-year legal battle between Las Vegas Sands Corp and Steve Jacobs](#), a former chief executive of Macau-based subsidiary Sands China Ltd, is to be held on August 14. Mr Jacobs was dismissed from his post in July 2010 over allegations of unauthorised deal making, which Mr Jacobs denies.

Caribbean

Gary Peart, chairman of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission (BGLC) in Jamaica is under scrutiny for his business connections. [The BGLC seeks to clarify](#) that connection to a company that is involved in a lottery would not create a conflict of interest.

Americas

California State Senator Lou Correa said that [he is shelving his online poker bill for 2014](#). According to a report given by Correa, there just isn't enough time in the current legislative session to get the votes. [Plans are apparently already in the works for a new bill](#), by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer, to be introduced in December.

[New York's gaming regulators sat down last week to determine whether or not to disqualify a Mohawk Valley casino bid in the town of Florida](#) for various omissions in the bid process. The loss of this casino bid would hurt the surrounding area as the local government is looking for the new casino to bring in jobs and an economic boost.

[New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez's administration has sued the federal government](#) on the grounds that the Interior Secretary cannot implement new regulations (including gaming regulations) with the Pojoaque and Pojoaque Pueblo Indian communities. These communities have thusfar failed to reach a new gambling agreement with the state.

Europe

In a note published on Latvia's Lotteries and Gambling Supervision Inspection (IUAUI), the [Baltic country announced the launch of its first-ever online gambling blacklist](#) of companies it considers "illegal" under Latvian law. The country aims to gain better control over its gambling market and enforce the application of its gambling law, but some commentators consider this a retrograde step.

Bas Jongmans, attorney at the law firm Gaming Legal, [sees the newly-proposed Dutch gaming regulations as too costly compared to other European systems](#).

Thank you

Please continue to send your articles, suggestions and feedback to gamingregulationupdate@govrisk.org and pass on the links to friends and colleagues.