

## Gaming Regulation Update No. 8

A small but important administrative point to kick off this week's update: [the dates for the Americas and Caribbean Gaming Regulation Forum in Miami have changed to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014](#). We hope that this will make things easier for those of you attending both the Forum and the Florida Gaming Congress. So, on with a packed Update:

### Caribbean

A huge development (pun intended I'm afraid...) in Caribbean gaming this week, as [Chinese investors are looking to build a US\\$1 Billion dollar casino in Antigua and Barbuda](#). The 1,600 acre mega-resort is set to become the largest casino in the Caribbean and would represent a major foray into land-based gaming for the currently internet-only jurisdiction.

Grenada looks to add their name to a list of Caribbean casino destinations as their government is [currently working on a casino bill](#). [With the purpose to "further enhance the vital tourism industry", the bill has already passed through the Grenada Parliament](#) and is currently being debated in their Senate. This bill, like the Bahamas gaming bill, would give more gaming rights to foreigners in comparison to citizens, a clear trend in land-based Caribbean jurisdictions.

### Asia Pacific

[Phillipine legislator Peter Unabia has submitted a bill to Congress](#) proposing that Philippine nationals pay a PHP3,500 (US\$80) casino entrance levy. The controversial bill would prevent those of inadequate means from gambling, in an attempt to curb problem gambling.

[Myanmar is still working on completing a gambling law, though it hasn't issued any licenses yet](#). The law would add to Myanmar's notoriety as a tourist destination, which has been increasing in recent years after political reforms.

### Americas

Online gambling has become a huge topic of debate in the United States, [especially in terms of legislation](#). While groups like the National Conference of State Legislatures advocate state-level decisions, many US politicians are calling for a nationwide online gaming ban.

State by state, online gaming is, however, gaining a foothold in the US. [A gaming bill in California seems more likely to pass next year](#) since it won't be an election year, while [Illinois gaming companies are lobbying hard for online gaming to be legalised there](#). [Online gaming could also spread to the East Coast next year](#), as Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland could be strong candidates for online gaming jurisdictions, especially if California does not pass legislation in 2015. This "domino effect" would massively enlarge the market, making it very difficult for the federal government to ever ban online gaming.

[Political figures within Paraguay have been discussing changes in the country's gaming laws](#). The new proposals would give the state more control over the industry, changes that would help Paraguay further itself in the South American gaming market.

### Europe

The Czech Republic Supreme Audit Office (NKÚ) has announced that [the country is losing about K600 million \(€21.6 million/\\$28.3 million\) each year due to illegal online betting](#). To solve this issue, the government plans to allow legal operators based in other European Union member countries to offer gaming and lottery services in the Czech Republic. This might form an interesting precedent, with implications on tax agreements and cooperation between jurisdictions.

### Thank you

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