

NEWS RELEASE

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bet365 to appeal Bucharest Court Ruling; Ongoing concerns over corrupt practices remain

bet365 is extremely disappointed by the Bucharest Court of Appeal's ruling today that it will not allow bet365's application to temporarily suspend the Romanian National Office for Gambling's (ONJN) decision to cancel bet365's interim right to operate in Romania. bet365 will find out the reasons for the ruling shortly but in the meantime is consulting with its legal advisors with a view to appealing the decision as soon as possible. It is important to note that the ruling today only related to bet365's request for temporary suspension of ONJN's decision until the trial of the main legal challenge against this decision and has no bearing on the ultimate determination on the legality of ONJN's actions in cancelling bet365's right to operate. That case will be heard at a later date and as such today's decision of the court is only one element of the ongoing legal challenges that bet365 is bringing against the ONJN.

bet365 maintains that the ONJN decision was legally unjustified, was made in a non-transparent way, without regard to due and proper process and with the express intention of excluding bet365 from the Romanian market. bet365's level of concern as regards the integrity of the process is such that, in parallel to the legal challenges mentioned above, it also submitted a criminal complaint to the relevant Romanian authorities in December 2015. This complaint followed the receipt of information by bet365 that appeared to support local media reports that certain persons involved in the ONJN decision-making process may have been influenced by external parties. The implication of these allegations was that such actions amounted to discriminatory and corrupt practices designed to benefit certain of bet365's competitors. Prior to bet365's removal from the market it had at least a 50% market share which has now been exploited by certain local operators.

bet365 will continue to vigorously pursue all actions available to it and is confident that it will ultimately succeed in re-entering the Romanian market and providing its services to Romanian customers.

It also important for bet365's customers to understand that today's ruling has no impact on their respective challenges to any fine that they may have received from the ONJN. Throughout this process, bet365 has been very concerned by the disgraceful actions of the ONJN in fining bet365's Romanian customers as an additional tool to raise revenues and cause damage to bet365's reputation in Romania. bet365 continues to support such customers in their ongoing legal challenges against their fines.

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