

<p style="text-align: center;">EUROMAT Annual report 2008-2009 Belgium</p>

1. Legislation

At the end of March 2009, the Belgian Council of Ministers has adopted a bill that modifies the gaming law of 7 May 1999.

The bill tends to give coherence to the licence attribution policy in the gaming sector, which is regulated by different measures originated with different authorities. The main objective of the bill is to introduce a legal statute for Belgian operators that offer games of chance on the internet. Only operators who are licensed to offer games of chance in the real world will receive the opportunity to offer their games on the internet.

Online gaming companies such as UNIBET are not pleased with the new draft but they are convinced that the European directives of free movement will put them in the right.

If everything goes as planned, the bill should be approved in parliament before the summer holidays.

At the present time, we are also confronted to a changing trend as regards poker. To prevent poker being played illegally and becoming an uncontrollable phenomenon, it is proposed that the game of poker be permitted in class I and II gaming establishments (casinos and gaming arcades). The games permitted must meet a certain number of requirements, such as a maximum average hourly loss. The rules of the game are clearly defined. The player is certain of receiving payment of his winnings. The Royal Decree therefore provides for authorisation to organise interactive games of poker in casinos and gaming arcades and defines their operating rules. Moreover, the Royal Decree contains a series of measures that simplify the Implementing Orders already in force.

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The waiting list for the B licenses (gaming arcades) is still getting longer and longer. Since the end of 2004, when the legal number of 180 authorized gaming arcades had been achieved, only one place has come free. It is undeniable that there is a lack of evolution in the waiting list, whereas a considerable number of the 180 licensed gaming arcades will never open their doors generally because of uninteresting locations at commercial level.

2. Taxes

No changes.

3. Number of machines

In 2008, Metrology has approved several new games/kits that can be operated in the different types of gaming establishments.

The total number of games/kits approved for operation in :

Casinos: 167 (137 in 2007)

Gaming Arcades: 98 (89 in 2007)

Pubs: 79 (66 in 2007)