

IAEA - The Irish Amusement Equipment Association

Country Report For Euromat General Assembly Meeting 2006 in Brussels, Belgium

Future Looking Brighter For Irish Industry!

The year under review – 2005 – will be remembered for a return to normal in terms of income from amusement and gaming equipment, after the introduction of a smoking ban in March 2004, which had a detrimental effect on income throughout the hospitality sector, including coin-op equipment in both arcades and single site locations.

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D., announced on 24 April 2006 that the Government has approved publication of the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2006. The Bill inserts new values of 50 cent as the maximum stake and 30 Euro as the maximum prize for gaming machines.

In 2004 there were 9,229 Gaming Machine licences yielding EUR 2,337,600; 6,550 Amusement Machine licences yielding EUR 795,827 and 109 Gaming (Premises) licences, yielding EUR 62, 590.

Ireland's Coin-Op Expo - AmEx 2006 - The 27th Irish Amusement & Gaming Trade Exhibition, sponsored by IAEA, was held in Dublin on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 March 2006. This was the best-attended show in recent years and there was a very positive attitude regarding the future development of the industry.

New Legislation

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D., announced on 24 April 2006 that the Government has approved publication of the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2006.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a Legal Services Ombudsman and various other matters including the law on business tenancies and aspects of the Gaming & Lotteries Acts.

The Bill inserts new values of 50 cent as the maximum stake and 30 Euro as the maximum prize for gaming machines.

The Minister also intends to bring forward further changes in Gaming and Lotteries legislation to address the phenomenon of casino-style operations in the State.

"I have concerns about the enforceability of the present law as it applies to these types of operations and the scope for their use for money-laundering," said Minister McDowell.

"I am preparing proposals for changes in the law that will facilitate the prosecution of offences and the closing down of establishments engaged in such operations.

It is my intention to seek Government approval within the next few weeks for these changes to be included in this Bill by way of Committee Stage amendments."

For further information go to

<http://www.justice.ie/80256E01003A02CF/vWeb/pcJUSQ6P7CTB-en>

Gaming & Amusement Statistics

In 2004 there were 9,229 Gaming Machine licences yielding EUR 2,337,600. (In 2003 there were 12,662 Gaming Machine licences yielding EUR 2,918,210.) In 2004 there were 6,550 Amusement Machine licences yielding EUR 795,827. (In 2003 there were 7,461 Amusement Machine licences yielding EUR 921,993.)

Amusement Machines are defined as games with a video screen including video games, simulators, touchscreens etc. There is anecdotal evidence of an increase in the numbers of other amusement games, for which there are no official statistics.

These include an estimated 6,000 Pool Tables, 4,000 Jukeboxes, 1,000 Soccer Tables, 1,000 Kiddie Rides, 1,000 Cranes, 500 Pinball, 500 Pushers, 500 Redemption Games and 500 Novelty Games.

In 2004 there were 109 Gaming (Premises) licences, yielding EUR 62, 590. (In 2003 there were 141 Gaming (Premises) licences, yielding EUR 70,090.) There are an estimated 100 Non Gaming Amusement Centres including FECs, Bowling Centres, Snooker Clubs and Pool Halls.

There are 2 Manufacturers, 10 Distributors, an estimated 400 Single Site Operators and an estimated 10,000 Single Site Locations.

IAEA Sponsors Ireland's Coin-Op Expo

Ireland's Coin-Op Expo - AmEx 2006 - The 27th Irish Amusement & Gaming Trade Exhibition, sponsored by IAEA, was held in Dublin on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 March 2006. This was the best-attended show in recent years and there was a very positive attitude regarding the future development of the industry.

Free admission, a free seminar programme and online registration all helped to boost attendance, which had fallen off last year, as a result of the introduction of a smoking ban in March 2004. AmEx 2006 was the first real proof that income and the industry had returned to normal.

This year saw the return of international technical guru, Randy Fromm, who conducted a series of seminars under the banner "TechFest Ireland 2006". These were aimed at both technicians and others involved in the repair and maintenance of coin-op equipment.

The opening of new up-market locations, the refurbishment of others and an increase in demand for equipment from associated sectors, including leisure centres, vending, casinos and betting, has all contributed to market expansion during 2005.

AmEx 2007 - The 28th Irish Amusement & Gaming Trade Exhibition will be held in Dublin on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 March 2007.

Mary Openshaw Memorial Award For Excellence

The Mary Openshaw Memorial Award For Excellence was inaugurated at AmEx 2004 in memory of the late Mary Openshaw, the renowned journalist, based in Brussels, Belgium, who served the international amusement industry for over 35 years.

The first recipient of the award was Eduardo Antoja, President of Euromat - The European Gaming & Amusement Federation, and it was awarded to him on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Euromat.

The second recipient of the award was Mike Nevin, Managing Director of Namco Europe and it was awarded to him to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Namco.

The third recipient, announced at AmEx 2006, is Hans Rosensweig, former head of Nova Games, Hamburg and former President of Euromat and it is awarded to him on the occasion of his retirement from Euromat.

Contacts

IAEA, which represents manufacturers, distributors and owners of amusement and gaming equipment, is to the fore in highlighting the important issues facing the amusement and gaming industry and is involved in ongoing communication with Ministers, TDs (Members of Parliament), MEPs and officials at national and European level.

IAEA has links with NIACTA - The Northern Ireland Amusement Caterers Trade Association and BACTA - The British Amusement Catering Trades Association and highly values their continued assistance and support.

The officers of IAEA are Jim McCann (President), Alan Muir (Treasurer) and Martin Dempsey (Secretary). Phone +353 45 521190. Email mdassociates@eircom.net Website <http://homepage.mac.com/mdassociates/news/page11.html>