

Emerging European jurisdictions: what have they ever done for us?

MALTA

Emerging markets across Europe are set to come under scrutiny as part of a panel discussion organised by the Malta iGaming Seminar (MiGS) and International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL).

The event will focus on the rapidly changing landscape of iGaming in the EU, with representatives from four countries currently moving toward comprehensive online legislation: Portugal, Sweden, Romania and the Czech Republic.

Last October, government officials from Sweden and the Czech Republic separately came out in favour of reforming regulation with the aim of increasing iGaming tax revenues. According to a schedule set out by the Swedish Social Democrats, the government is poised to kick off an enquiry into online gaming legislation this autumn and intends to complete the process by 2018.

More recent developments in 2015 have seen Romania initiate an overhaul of its iGaming regulation and the Portuguese government approve a draft bill proposing regulatory measures for online operators.

Monty Python asked the question of the Romans and now the **IMGL** conference will pose it to the new gambling territories. Representatives from key emerging jurisdictions will discuss new regulatory regimes in Malta next month. And the answer, the industry hopes, is as clear as that handed to John Cleese in the *Life of Brian* - virtually everything. The gambling industry needs safe, well administered and clearly regulated new jurisdictions and the chance to explain that all comes in the capital of a small Mediterranean island.



The Malta conference will draw together the president of the Czech national office for gambling, Odetta Nestor, who will discuss her first-hand experience of helping to craft the

country's gaming legislation. She will be joined by Nuno Azevedo Neves, an online gaming specialist and partner in Lisbon-based law firm ABBC.

Also making his views

known will be Haken Hallstedt, the director general of the Swedish Gambling Authority, and Ondřej Plešmíd, a lawyer at the Czech Republic's Ministry of Finance.

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