



Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze
Amministrazione autonoma dei monopoli di Stato

“ISP Blocking” in Italy

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**REGULATING GAMBLING:
THE ROLE OF THE AUTHORITY**

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Legislative Framework

Law no. 296 of 27 December 2006, art. 1(50) (budget law 2007)

which makes it possible to block illegal websites through rules to be established in an *ad hoc* implementation decree

Directorial Decree AAMS no. 1034/CGV of 2 January 2007

implementation decree regarding the “*removal of the telematic offer of games, lotteries, wagers, or pool betting with cash winnings in the absence of a concession, authorization, license or other qualifying title, or in violation of laws or regulations or of the limits and requirements set by AAMS*”

Directorial Decree AAMS no. 1484 of 10 December 2008

defines the application modalities of the administrative cash sanctions to be applied, pursuant to Law no. 689 of 24 November 1981, to providers of online services in case of failure to block unauthorized gaming websites

The blocking process includes five steps:

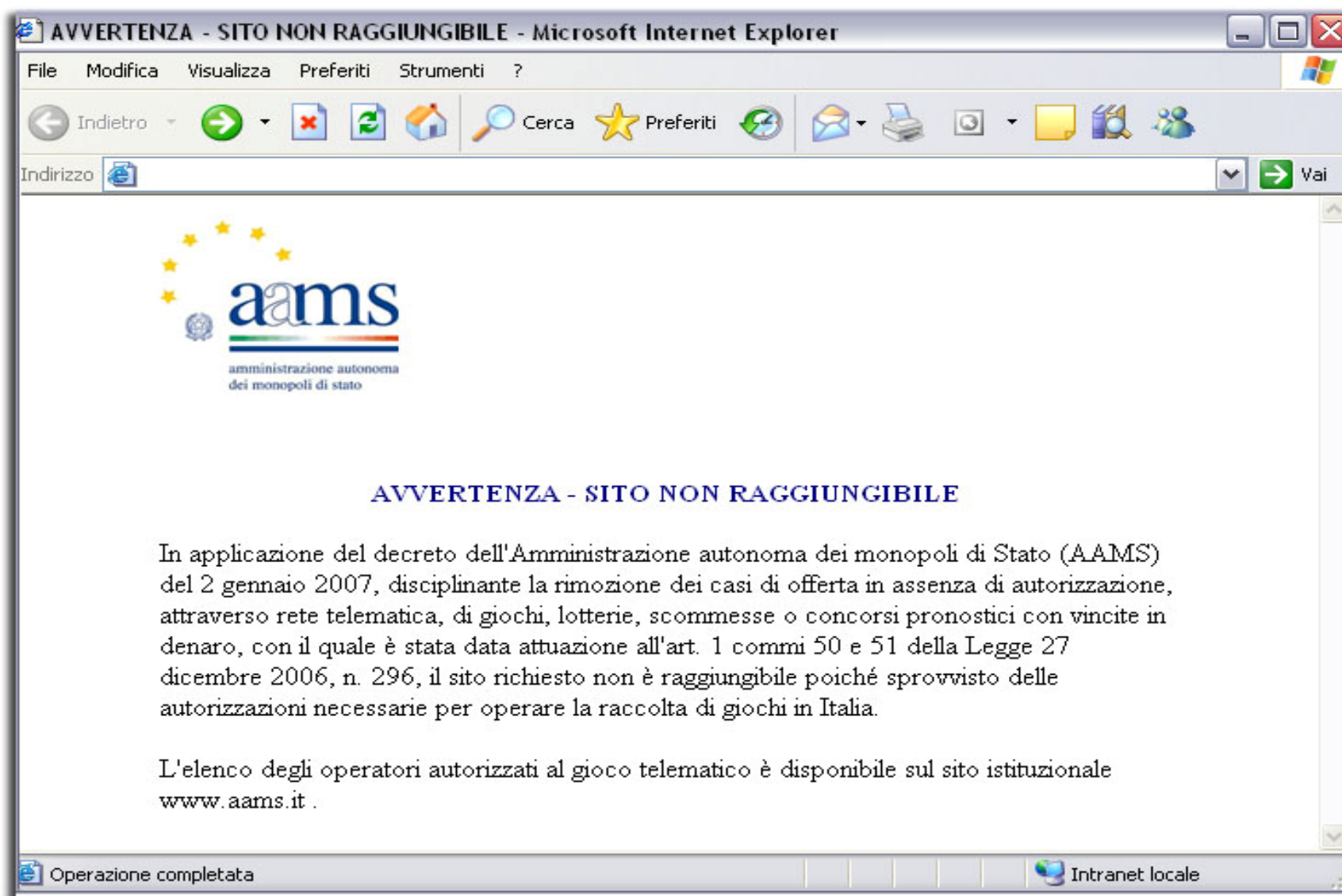
Identification of illegal gaming websites: activity carried out by AAMS staff with the support of police forces

Communication to online service providers of the sites to be blocked: regulation listing the illegal gaming websites and the deadline by which blocking must be completed

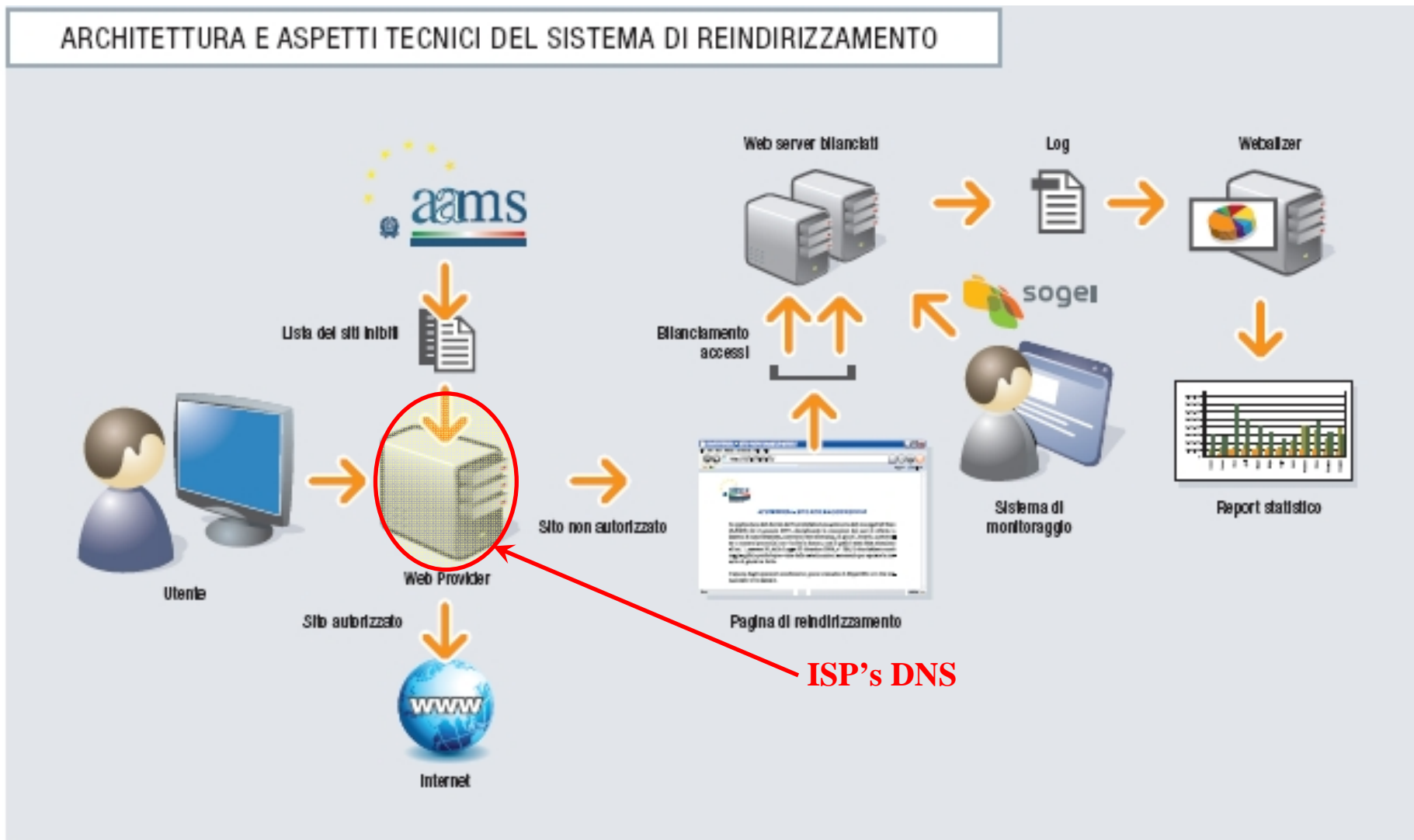
Blocking of illegal gaming websites through **redirection**: online service providers are responsible for this activity, which consists of forwarding requests for access on the part of DNS to a special AAMS webpage, stating that the site is not accessible

Control of the effective blockage of illegal websites

Monitoring of players' attempts to access the illegal gaming websites that have been identified



ARCHITETTURA E ASPETTI TECNICI DEL SISTEMA DI REINDIRIZZAMENTO



Schema tecnico del meccanismo di inibizione dei siti illegali e del monitoraggio dei tentativi di accesso

The blocking process is controlled by **law enforcement agencies** (*Guardia di Finanza and Polizia Postale e delle Telecomunicazioni*), in two steps:

1

Automatic periodical verification of the accessibility of sites included on the “black list”, with the possible identification of the internet services providers who have not complied

2

Confirmation of the infraction directly with the relevant service provider

In case of non-compliance, the relevant law enforcement agencies draft a written record of the infraction, and launch the procedure to apply the administrative **cash sanctions** against the defaulting service provider.

Law no. 296 of 27 December 2006 calls for administrative cash sanctions ranging between **30,000** and **180,000 euros** for each established violation committed by the internet service providers.

On 2 January 2007 AAMS issued **directorial decree** no. 1034, in implementation of the dispositions of Law no. 269/2006, and reiterating the applicability of administrative cash sanctions against internet service providers.

Some Data / Example

2400 sites
in the black list (as today)

100+ sites
added every month

2-3 million
attempts to access
blocked sites every day

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2302 | www2.globet.com |
| 2303 | www2.goldbet.com |
| 2304 | www2.gold-rex.co.uk |
| 2305 | www2.interscommessa.com |
| 2306 | www2.king.com |
| 2307 | www2.midasplayer.com |
| 2308 | www2.multibet.com |
| 2309 | www2.sportwetten-gera.com |
| 2310 | www2.sunderbet.com |
| 2311 | www2.totosi.com |
| 2312 | www2.unibet.com |
| 2313 | www2.vegasslotcasino.com |
| 2314 | www20.goldbet.com |
| 2315 | www21.goldbet.com |
| 2316 | www22.goldbet.com |
| 2317 | www222.betfair.com |
| 2318 | www23.goldbet.com |
| 2319 | www24.goldbet.com |
| 2320 | www25.goldbet.com |
| 2321 | www26.goldbet.com |
| 2322 | www27.goldbet.com |
| 2323 | www28.goldbet.com |
| 2324 | www29.goldbet.com |

DNS Filtering is not IP Blocking

“www.poker.com” is different from “www2.poker.com”.

Monthly Update

The day after, blocked sites change their name.

Affiliates banners are updated in real time with the new links.

Easy to Circumvent

Changing the PC's DNS settings makes the black list ineffective.

Manual Search

Searching for illegal web sites is labour-intensive.

Works if there is a legal alternative

Huge demand for on-line gambling. The web can't be blocked. If games are not regulated, people will eventually reach the illegal sites.

Points of Strength

It Tells the Difference!

“Legal” and “illegal” gaming sites look the same.
It is a powerful communication tool, right to the target.

Customer Protection

Citizen are aware that they can choose between “black” and “white”.
State’s control is perceived as an added value that makes “white” win.

Investment Protection

Regulated products could be less attractive and are taxed.
Getting a concession requires time and money.
The block helps concessionaires to face the unfair competition.

International Cooperation

Sharing black lists between jurisdictions (e.g. France, Estonia) could improve their effectiveness.