

“Regulating Gambling : The Role of the Authority”

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By Christel Schaldemose

My main ideas and position concerning necessary political solutions regarding transnational gambling and the role of the authorities:

Gambling is not a win for all.

We have to have regulation on the gambling market. But I am of the opinion, that since we have different cultures on this issue in the EU, we should leave it up to the member states to regulate gambling. But we have some special problems concerning online gambling. Here I think we need to be better to cooperate between the member states and the EU level in order to tackle fraud, to tackle aggressive marketing, have age restrictions and so on.

I think we need to realise that tackling the negative consequences of gambling can not be up to the gambling providers alone - we need political solutions. And I also think we need to address the problems with taxation politically.

That was also my focus in my report on gambling which was adopted in the European Parliament in 2009.

A study from Sweden has shown that the risk of developing compulsive gambling is 5-7 times higher if you play poker on the computer than if you go into an ordinary casino.

I believe that the key points on gambling are:

- 1) That the online gaming operators must comply with the law of the State in which consumers live.
- 2) There should be a political rather than legal clarification as to how to tackle problems on the European online gaming market.
- 3) There is a need to develop standards on how to protect consumers against fraud, gambling addiction and more.
- 4) There is a need for more research in this area.