

Amendments on the online gaming procedure

BY JOHN KYRIAKIDES AND IOANNIS BROUPIS | NOVEMBER, 2019

The Invest in Greece Law puts an end to the temporal nature of the Greek online gaming licensing framework, according to which things seemed to be in an indefinite “transitional phase”, with twenty four (24) temporary licence holders offering online gaming. The temporary licensees have further assigned their right to offer services for online games of chance to sub-licensees, who are not explicitly recognized by the Greek Authorities and relevant legislation, but seemed to be implicitly “tolerated” during this transitional phase.

The forthcoming changes include decisive legislative steps on the matter, by clarifying the legal status of the licence holders and by establishing a new legal framework. In a nutshell, Articles 190-204 of the law contain provisions regarding the provision of two (2) different types of licences with a 7-year duration, the granting of which will cost € 3.000.000 for online betting games and € 2.000.000 for the rest types of online games (article 196 par. 5 of the Invest in Greece Law). Every candidate can apply for both licences, provided that he satisfies all the requirements and, of course, pays the relevant price. Moreover, an open licencing procedure for online gaming under the exclusive competence of the Greek State is foreseen. That means that the current provision for an international

tender is abandoned. No maximum number of licences is foreseen. Prerequisite for obtaining a licence is to have a permanent residence or a registered establishment in Greece or in another Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area. Licences are granted by the HGC and the websites must have the suffix “.gr”, similarly to the L. 4002/2011 regime.

Furthermore, the successful provisions of L. 4002/2011 are maintained, such as the existence of an electronic Player’s Card and the HGC’s “black list” of companies operating without a licence, while, on the other hand, new terms are introduced, such as provisions about affiliates, a matter which wasn’t dealt at all under Law 4002/2011. As an “affiliate” is construed whoever cooperates with licensees in order to promote certain games and must place links in prominent places of their websites. It is also provided that the general restrictions posed in every other type of commercial communication, according to Article 35 of Law 4002/2011, are also applicable to affiliates.

Beyond doubt, the new legislation will inspire trust in the providers of online gaming services and will regulate the gaming market in a more efficient and fair way.

Contact Us



John Kyriakides

MANAGING PARTNER

j.kyriakides@kglawfirm.gr



Follow Us

ATHENS OFFICE

28, Dimitriou Soutsou Str.,
115 21 Athens

T +30 210 817 1500

F +30 210 685 6657-8

E kg.law@kglawfirm.gr

THESSALONIKI OFFICE

17, Ethnikis Antistasseos Str.,
551 34 Thessaloniki

T +30 2310 441 552

E kg.law@kglawfirm.gr

www.kglawfirm.gr

Disclaimer: This newsletter contains general information only and is not intended to provide specific legal, or other professional advice or services, nor is it suitable for such professional advice, and should not be used as a basis for any decision or action that may affect you or your business. Before making any decision or taking any action that may affect you or your business, you should consult a qualified professional advisor. We remain at your disposal should you require any further information or clarification in this regard.

©Kyriakides Georgopoulos, 2019