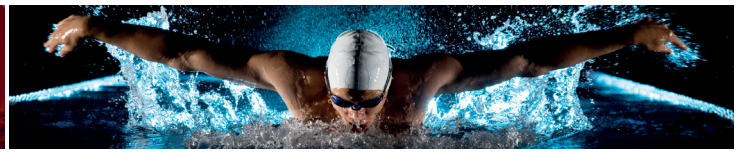


# ESSA 2016 ANNUAL INTEGRITY REPORT





## EDITORIAL



In 2016, ESSA reported a total of 130 alerts of suspicious betting activity to the relevant authorities; this represents a 30% increase on the 100 alerts reported in 2015. This should, however, be seen in light of a rise in ESSA membership - 6 new operators in the last 12 months - and a number of new information sharing agreements during the year.

As with our previous reports, the emphasis remains on being transparent wherever possible and to providing information that adds to the ongoing debate around match-fixing. Tennis again showed the highest number of alerts during the year, representing 103 cases or 79% of all alerts reported. Alerts for that sport have now dominated ESSA's integrity statistics for eight consecutive quarters.

We have established a positive working relationship with the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) and share a common goal. Recent investment in staff and resources by the sport is very welcome. However, there are clearly some ongoing and underlying issues that need to be tackled. ESSA members have provided observations to the Review Panel set up to address this issue. What is needed now is a set of recommendations that are both practical and effective. We hope the Panel's imminent Interim Report provides just that.

We have also engaged in a range of high-level national and transnational discussions and policy consultations during 2016. This included important initiatives such as the "Keep Crime out of Sport" project led by the Council of Europe and our continuing support for a player education programme.

Such partnerships will continue in the year ahead, notably with ESSA's involvement in an anti-match-fixing project with Transparency International. As with our other projects, this involves funding from the European Commission. The Commission has been a welcome and active participant in this discussion and is developing a recommendation on match-fixing. ESSA looks forward to engaging in that process.

As a supporter of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, the Commission's recommendation will likely complement that document. ESSA helped to shape the Convention and broadly supports its introduction; it provides a useful framework of actions, albeit its definition of illegal sports betting continues to cause difficulties. Whether the Convention will get the required support for ratification during 2017 remains unclear.

In the meantime, the association will continue to meet with key stakeholders to discuss practical and proportionate actions. We hold key positions on the IOC, European Commission, Council of Europe and other betting policy working groups and match-fixing programmes to do just that.

These activities serve to further cement ESSA's standing as the regulated betting sector's leading representative body on integrity matters. As with previous years, we expect 2017 to entail a number of challenges for our sector. We will continue to be an ardent and vocal supporter of responsible regulated operators and utilise our alert system to protect our members, consumers and sports from corruption. We are intent on progressing a number of constructive actions in this area during 2017.

**Mike O'Kane**  
ESSA Chairman

## Q4 & TOTAL ALERT FIGURES FOR 2016

During the final quarter (Q4) of 2016, ESSA's alert platform identified 41 sporting events that were deemed suspicious and referred to the relevant authorities for further investigation. Tennis, with 29 (71%) cases, constituted the highest number of sporting events on which suspicious betting was identified, followed by football with 8 (20%) cases.

The quarter reflected the overall 2016 figure, with the 130 alerts reported during the year dominated by tennis, which accounted for 103 (79%) of those cases. Football followed with 16 (12%) cases reported. These statistics should be viewed noting that ESSA's membership base and the scope of its global alert and reporting system increased during the calendar year.

From a geographical perspective, Europe posted the highest number of alerts with 71 (55%) cases relating to sporting events taking place in that continent, followed by Asia with 25 (19%). Tennis made up the majority of the cases taking place in Europe with 45 (63%) of the 71 alerts. It also accounted for 24 (96%) of the 25 alerts across all sporting events in Asia. For football, the cases predominantly occurred in European based matches with 15 (94%) of the 16 alerts recorded.

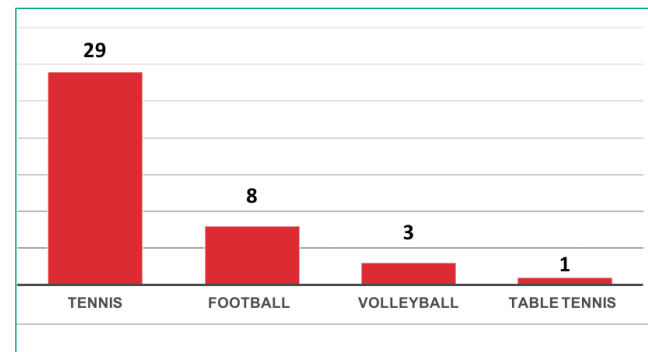
The figures in this report cover alerts generated by ESSA's members on their regulated betting platforms during the periods stated. All suspicious cases were referred to the relevant regulatory authorities for further investigation of potential corrupt activity. ESSA has information sharing agreements with a number of major sports and national gambling regulatory authorities to facilitate this. Each country's respective continental locations have been determined using UN classifications (except Cyprus, placed under Europe, instead of Asia, as it is part of the European Union).

The ESSA alert platform primarily works on the input provided by its members, notably alerts created by members relating to suspicious transactions detected by their own internal control systems. If such an alert is issued, which occurs through the alert platform, members are required to respond quickly

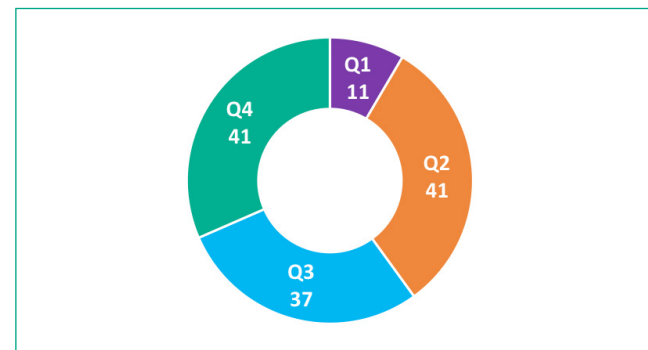
confirming whether or not similar trends have been seen elsewhere in their markets. Where evidence emerges that there may be potentially fraudulent activity taking place, e.g. because several members have confirmed an irregular betting pattern, ESSA will:

1. report that information under the applicable Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the relevant sports governing body and/or regulatory authority, where appropriate; and
2. advise the member(s) concerned to make a report to their own national regulatory authority.

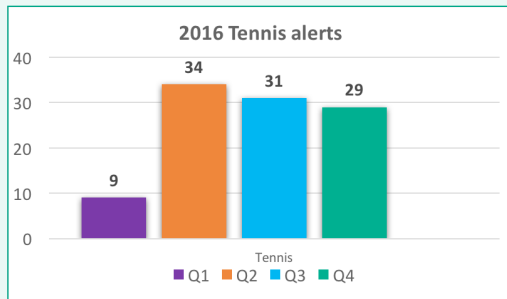
## Suspicious alert in Q4 2016



## 2016 total alerts divided by quarter



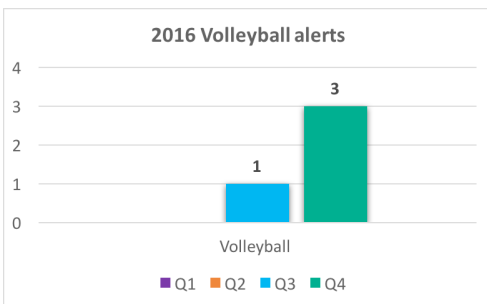
# TOTAL SUSPICIOUS ALERTS PER SPORT IN 2016



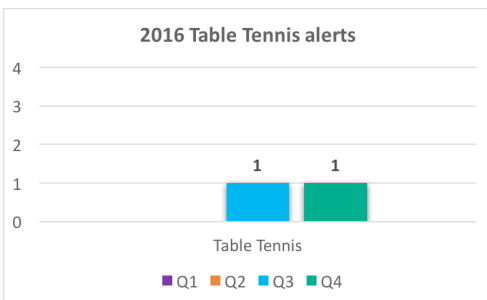
Total alerts:  
**103**



Total alerts:  
**16**



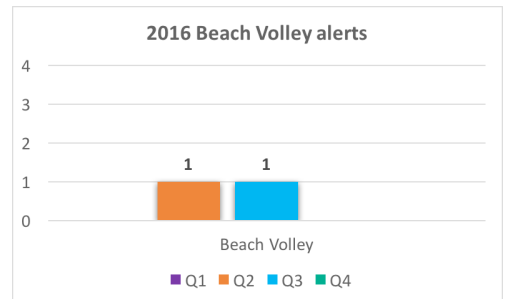
Total alerts:  
**4**



Total alerts:  
**2**



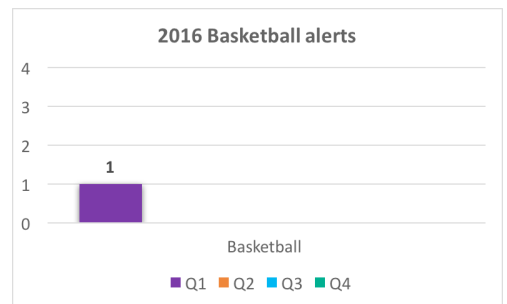
Total alerts:  
**2**



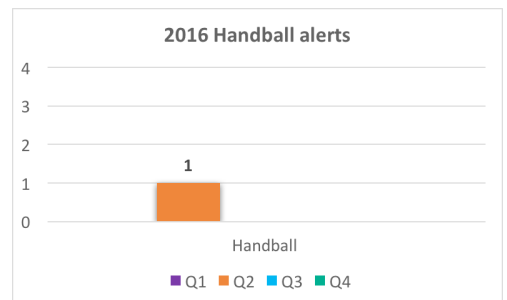
Total alerts:  
**1**



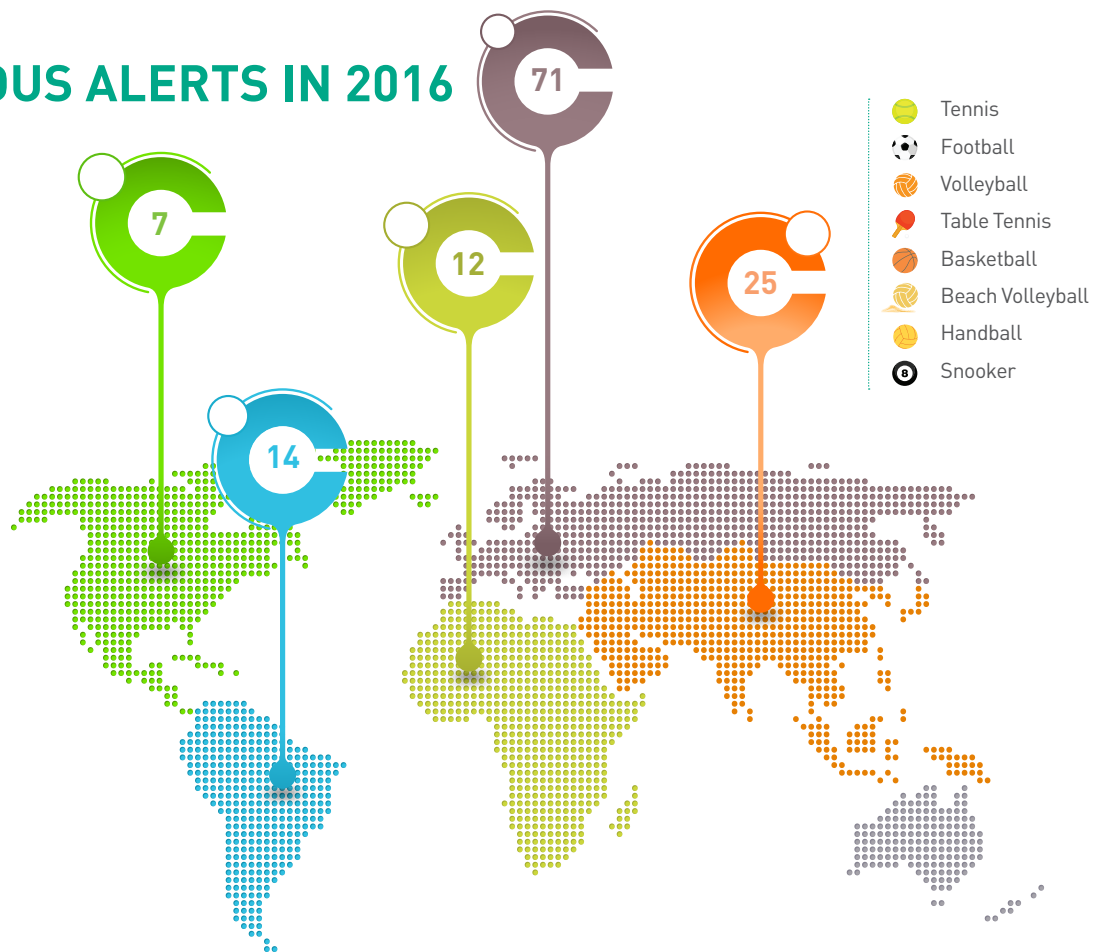
Total alerts:  
**1**



Total alerts:  
**1**



# 130 SUSPICIOUS ALERTS IN 2016



## AFRICA – 12 CASES

- Egypt - 🏏 x 5
- Morocco - 🏏 x 4
- Nigeria - 🏏 x 1
- Tunisia - 🏏 x 2

## ASIA – 25 CASES

- Azerbaijan - 🏏 x 3
- China - 🏏 x 1
- Hong Kong - 🏏 x 1
- India - 🏏 x 1
- Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories - 🏏 x 3
- Kazakhstan - 🏏 x 2
- Qatar - 🏏 x 3
- Taiwan - 🏏 x 1
- Thailand - 🏏 x 1
- Turkey - 🏏 x 4
- Uzbekistan - 🏏 x 4 • 🏏 x 1

## EUROPE – 71 CASES

- Austria - 🏏 x 1
- Bosnia and Herzegovina - 🏏 x 1
- Belarus - 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1
- Belgium - 🏏 x 3
- Bulgaria - 🏏 x 1
- Czech Republic - 🏏 x 2
- Finland - 🏏 x 1
- France - 🏏 x 6
- Germany - 🏏 x 1
- Greece - 🏏 x 2 • 🏏 x 5 • 🏏 x 4
- Italy - 🏏 x 6 • 🏏 x 1
- Liechtenstein - 🏏 x 1
- Lithuania - 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1
- Norway - 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1
- Serbia - 🏏 x 2
- Slovakia - 🏏 x 1
- Spain - 🏏 x 5 • 🏏 x 2
- Poland - 🏏 x 1
- Portugal - 🏏 x 1
- Romania - 🏏 x 3
- Russia - 🏏 x 7 • 🏏 x 2
- UK - 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1
- Ukraine - 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1 • 🏏 x 1

## NORTH AMERICA – 7 CASES

- USA - 🏏 x 3
- Canada - 🏏 x 2
- Guadalupe - 🏏 x 1
- El Salvador - 🏏 x 1

## SOUTH AMERICA – 14 CASES

- Argentina - 🏏 x 2
- Brazil - 🏏 x 4
- Chile - 🏏 x 1
- Colombia - 🏏 x 3
- Ecuador - 🏏 x 2
- Uruguay - 🏏 x 2

## NO COUNTRY ORIGIN – 1 CASE

- 🏏 x 1

## OUR MEMBERS



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