

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Fundación CODERE presents the book "El Juego on line" (Online Gambling), published by Thomson Reuters Aranzadi, yesterday at the National Competition Commission in Madrid**

**THE NEW GAMING LAW POSES A "COMPLETELY SUBVERSIVE SCENARIO" OF THE ESTABLISHED ORDER**

- The CODERE Foundation chairman, José Antonio Martínez Sampedro, noted that with this "Express Law", sports sponsorships and other economic interests are placed above the public interest.
- The conference brought together many professionals and representatives of agencies such as the National Competition Commission, Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Information Society and the Directorate of Gaming Organization and Management of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

**Madrid, 24 November 2011.** The gambling authorities must be alerted of the need to 'revise' the current regulations to avoid jeopardizing the industry, has been the main conclusion drawn from the presentation of **"El juego on line"** organized yesterday by Fundación CODERE at the National Competition Commission, a publication born in a context of great concern after the hasty approval of the decrees for the granting of licenses to operate online gambling in Spain.

The conference reviewed the main issues underlying the on line gambling, supported by the new rules and considering the business, fiscal and administrative implications reflected in the new legal framework and included the participation of celebrities and industry professionals such as Joaquín García Bernaldo de Quirós, President of the National Competition Commission, Juan Junquera Temprano, Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Information Society, Inmaculada Vela Sastre, Director General of the Gaming Organization and Management (Ministry of Economy and Finance), José Antonio Martínez Sampedro, Chairman of Fundación CODERE, and Javier Moscoso del Prado, Chairman of the Editorial Board of Thomson Reuters.

**Years of waiting for a transformation that has not been resolved properly**

The CODERE Foundation chairman, José Antonio Martínez Sampedro, was highly critical of the newly passed gaming law, noting that "the new scenario is completely subversive for the established order." After more than 30 years of national and international experience in this sector, Mr. Martínez Sampedro noted that this activity already had recognized consumer protection principles, high taxation, and limited offer and advertising due to the positive discrimination in favor of the LAE and ONCE. Well, under the new model, everything changes.

Also, the Chairman of Fundación CODERE highlighted the presence of two models under the new regulations, state and regional and questioned how such coexistence will be possible. Finally, he posed a question to the large audience that could summarize his critical view of the new regulations: Will this new model of high liberalization of the gaming industry in Spain be sustainable from the social point of view?

Also participating in the event were Mr. Joaquín García Bernaldo de Quirós, President of the National Competition Commission, who claimed a "real competitive environment for all parties" and in the closing ceremony, Mr. Juan Junquera Temprano, Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Information Society, noted that, with the new technologies there are no borders and hence the importance of a balanced policy that suits the interests of all online gaming agents in Spain.

On the part of the state regulator, the conference was also attended by Ms. Inmaculada Vela Sastre, Director General of the Gaming Organization and Management, of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, who defended the new rules as "a revulsion against the current economic crisis" and which enables the convergence between online and offline gaming. She stressed that not only was a law created, but also an administration to enforce the law.

### **The continuity of the Sector at risk**

The relevance of the Gambling Act itself transcends the organization of a business that represents about 1% of GDP and directly and indirectly employs over 100,000 workers, contributing more than €5,000 million to the different public administrations through taxes and other forms of revenue and handles in terms of amounts played in different modes authorized in Spain, more than €30,000 million a year.

The measures adopted in the coming months take on vital importance not only for how much the industry represents in the economy, but for the very continuity thereof in coming years.