



Press Release

Netherlands Appeals Court: Gaming Tax in violation with human rights treaty

Operator receives EUR 1,3 mln. in damages

Gaming Legal Group

LITIGATION & COMPLIANCE

On December 3, 2019, the Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeals ruled on a case brought by the Wetsteijn gambling machine operator Wetsteijn in Dordrecht against the tax authorities. Attorney Bas Jongmans of Gaming Legal Group assisted the company in the proceedings.

The Court of Appeals ruled that the gambling tax introduced on turnovers from gambling machines has hit the Wetsteijn company in an excessive fashion and is therefore a violation of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Citizens and companies often rely on this specific provision of the human rights treaty. However, it is the first time in the history of Dutch case law that an appeal in a tax case has led to such a substantial compensation. The ruling also offers prospects for compensation for other operators, who have been litigating for years. Wetsteijn shall have to wait for its money for now. The Dutch State is expected to file an appeal with the Supreme Court of the Netherlands.

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