Yesterday, 4 June 2019, a press conference was held in Prague's Holešovice with journalists from **most of the media market, e.g. Týden, Hospodářské noviny, ČTK, Seznam zprávy, Deník, Magazín Euro, Forbes, E15, ČT or Mladá Fronta Dnes**, on the latest current topic of the gambling industry – taxation of winnings of players.

In addition to the IFGR director, **the panel featured** Petr Knybel (Tipsport), David Huspeka (Rebuy Stars Holding), Miroslav Valenta (SYNOT TIP), Jaroslav Sita (Poker Players of the Czech Republic Association) and Vladimír Eichinger (Novomatic Group and Association of Casinos of the Czech Republic).

It did not take long for the Ministry of Finance to react and the IFGR was contacted by Deputy Minister Stanislav Kouba in order to discuss this issue at a personal meeting with Finance Minister Mrs. Schillerová herself this week!

All speakers agreed that the bill to tax players:

- is completely **non-conceptual**, because it was basically adopted "secretly" and without any impact analyses and communication with the professional public;
- will have **negative societal consequences** as players will shift to illegal operators, where they are not protected at all, or will start playing more and riskier and will lose more;
- will cause an **increase in the illegal market** as players will immediately find replacement with illegal operators;
- **under no circumstances will the MoF have the anticipated impacts**, i.e. especially the increase in income to the state budget, because it will certainly **cause a decrease in tax revenue** and income to the budget (the MoF's estimate is CZK 3.6 billion, the IFGR'S estimate, according to analyses carried out on the basis of results of operators, is CZK 1 billion).

So far, the following articles have been published about the press conference:

https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/vyhrajete-10-tisic-korun-dan-zaplatite-165-tisice-absolutni-stupidita-rika-sef-nejvetsi-sazkove-kancelare-73428?dop-ab-variant=15&seq-no=1&source=hp

https://www.e15.cz/domaci/hazardni-byznys-protestuje-proti-zdaneni-hracu-ti-by-na-sve-vyhre-mohli-i-prodelat-1359479

https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/ekonomika/nedante-vyhry-a-radsi-se-zamerte-na-nelegalni-asijske-herny/r~1171e02c86ae11e9a305ac1f6b220ee8/

https://eurozpravy.cz/ekonomika/ceska-republika/259525-zdaneni-vyher-nad-100-tisic-sdruzeni-kritizuje-tajnou-zmenu-zakona/

Let me thank all of you who participated in the preparation of the press briefing through their active speech, sending of valid documents or help with the organization of the whole event.

The presentation of the IFGR's speech and a press release are attached. We will send more media outlets and photo documentation from the meeting tomorrow.

We will continue to inform you about the next steps as well as about the results of the meeting with the Minister of Finance, if it really happens.