

Press Release

Charity Lotteries: 10 billion euros for civil society

Brussels 4th of March 2008 -- Almost 10 billion Euro could be raised every year to support the irreplaceable work done by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) if all 27 Member States of the EU would allow national Charity Lotteries. This is the belief of the Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union (ACLEU).



This new organisation was officially launched following a meeting today hosted by the Members of European Parliament (MEP) Corien Wortmann-Kool (EPP-ED) and Ieke van den Burg (PES) where EU Commissioner Ján Figel' addressed in his keynote speech the role of civil society in European policy making. He recognized Charity Lotteries as a successful model for sustainable funding for civil society, as they are long-term funding tools.

The launch was attended by members of ACLEU, Members of European Parliament and NGO representatives and marks the start of a campaign to inform key stakeholders at EU and national level about the effectiveness of national Charity Lotteries in raising funds for civil society in EU Member States.

"Our experience in the Netherlands clearly demonstrates that Charity Lotteries can play a very beneficial role for our people in particular in times where governments cut back money for NGOs and others are unable to jump in" underlined Tatiana van Lier, executive director of ACLEU. In the Netherlands alone Charity Lotteries are making 300 million Euro every year available to a broad range of more than 120 NGOs delivering charitable work in different fields of public interest.

The Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union has currently six members from the Netherlands, Sweden, England and Scotland. The members have in common that they all have fundraising for civil society as their primary aim, they all donate a large share of their sales without political interference directly to a wide range of organisations, varying from well-know brands as WWF and Amnesty International, to the project-next-door. Finally, these Charity Lotteries operate under national legislation and they are non-addictive.

The members of the Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union believe that non governmental organisations in every Member State of the European Union should be enabled to use (national) Charity Lotteries as a fundraising tool. Charity Lotteries are complementary to state lotteries, as shown in the Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom.

ACLEU will promote the model all over Europe, to enable more good causes to benefit from the revenues from charity lotteries.

For further information please contact:

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Notes for editors:

Key facts about Charity Lotteries:

- * fundraising for (national) good causes is the primary aim of Charity Lotteries
- * Charity Lotteries donate a substantial part of their income to their beneficiaries – no private profits are made
- * the funds are allocated and distributed by an independent body, without any government interference
- * Charity Lotteries operate under national legislation
- * Charity Lotteries are non-addictive in their nature – in principle they offer only long odd games

ACLEU is an alliance of charity lotteries in the European Union. ACLEU seeks to promote and represent the interest of her members in all matters relating to fundraising via charity lotteries. The members of ACLEU have fundraising via charity lotteries as their primary aim, and they all contribute a large share (up to 50 percent) of their sales to a wide range of non-governmental

organisations among which some well-known organisations as Amnesty International, the World Wildlife Fund, Save the Children and UNICEF.

For a complete list of all beneficiaries, please visit www.acleu.eu

ACLEU is established as an international non profit organisation under Belgian law and has an office based in Brussels.

ACLEU Members:

Nationale Postcode Loterij, The Netherlands: www.postcodeloterij.nl

Svenska PostkodLotteriet AB, Sweden: www.postkodlotteriet.se

Sponsor Bingo Loterij, The Netherlands: www.sponsorloterij.nl

People's Postcode Lottery (England and Scotland): www.postcodelottery.co.uk

BankGiro Loterij, The Netherlands: www.bankgiroloterij.nl