



THE
EUROPEAN
LOTTERIES

ELSPORTS

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Member Info

Basel, 8 November 2010

ELS President newly elected President of WLA

On November 4 during the WLA 2010 Convention and Trade Show in Brisbane, Australia, Risto Nieminen was unanimously elected President of the World Lottery Association (WLA).

The 59-year-old sports-mad Finn from Helsinki who is also president of European Lotteries Sports (ELS) and was Communications Manager for the Finnish Olympic Team for ten years is currently President and CEO of Veikkaus Oy, the Finnish national lottery. He takes on WLA's top job from Arthur L. Gleason, President and CEO of the Kentucky Lottery Corporation, USA.

Nieminen has an extensive pedigree in sports administration, having been a member of the Executive Committee of the International University Sport Federation (FISU) and a FISU Assessor for 15 years.

"Protect the brand of legal gaming and betting and maintain the industry's integrity" as well as "illegal sports betting being the single biggest threat to sport and must be stopped at all costs" are two items at the top of Risto Nieminen's list of concern.

The WLA is the global professional body representing State lottery and gaming operators and is made up of 90 member countries from five continents.

According to the WLA website members generate \$180 billion annually, the bulk of which goes to good causes.

WLA's newly elected executive committee members:

Risto Nieminen, Finland

Henry Chan, Hong Kong

Benjamin Gonzalez Roaro, Mexico

Michelle Carinci, Canada

Christophe Blachard-Dignac, France

Rolf Stypmann, Germany

Jean-Luc Moner-Banet, Switzerland

Diane Thompson, United Kingdom

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