

As the Dutch Lotto point out, Ladbrokes' case has indeed been heard in the Dutch Courts; however, to date, we do not believe the Dutch courts have taken sufficient account of the EU Treaty and EU case law relating to betting and gaming.

This was the subject of our complaint to the EU Commission. Clearly, the commission looking at the evidence believes that the Dutch gaming law and the justification for their current monopoly law is found wanting.

It is therefore completely appropriate for them to refer to Ladbrokes and evidence we have compiled as part of our complaint to the commission.

That said, it is hardly surprising that De Lotto are not happy that their privileged monopoly position is being examined closely by the EU Competition Commission.

Ladbrokes will continue to press its case in the interests of competition and better value for the consumer in Holland.