

# LIST OF SPEAKERS



## Mr Mario Petraglia (Panellist)

Mr. Petraglia has a wealth of experience in online gambling, with over 15 years in the industry. He has held senior positions in legal, compliance, risk management, and director roles in both B2B and B2C verticals. He has worked with various reputable companies including Goldbet, Yggdrasil Gaming, and Push Gaming. Currently, he is the Head of Regulatory Risk at Videoslots, where he expertly leads the risk management and internal audit functions. Areas of interest encompass AML/CFT/PF, responsible gambling, information security, sustainability adaptation and reporting.



## Mr Stefan Lia (Panellist)

Stefan Lia, ACII, BA (Hons), MSc, CRISC currently Heads the Governance, Risk and Compliance Function at Betsson Group. His responsibilities include coordinating internal audit, managing the group insurance program, designing and implementing and managing risk management and governance processes and acting as advisor to Management on various matters.

Stefan started his career working with a Maltese insurer where he was responsible for Commercial Insurance underwriting. This was followed by a stint at the MFSA where he spent over four years as part of the Consumer Complaints Unit. Prior to joining Betsson in his current role, he was part of the Risk Advisory team at Deloitte Malta where he serviced clients in the gaming and financial services industries.

Stefan holds an Advanced Diploma in Insurance from the Chartered Insurance Institute, a BA (Hons) in Financial Services from University of Edinburgh Napier and MSc in Risk Management from Glasgow Caledonian University and is Certified in Risk and Information System Controls by ISACA.



## Mr Alexandru Lupui (Panellist)

Alexandru Lupui has carved a path in the iGaming industry, combining his passion for the sector with a keen expertise in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) practices. With over 12 years of dedicated experience, Alexandru has become a respected figure, known for his innovative approaches to compliance and regulatory affairs.

Starting his journey in the early days of iGaming's digital expansion, Alexandru quickly identified the critical need for robust compliance frameworks to support the industry's growth and protect its integrity. His career took off as he joined one of the sector's emerging platforms, where he applied his analytical skills and knowledge to navigate the complex web of international regulatory requirements. This role not only honed his skills in AML strategies but also underscored the importance of fostering a culture of compliance within rapidly growing organizations. Recognizing the evolving challenges of the iGaming landscape, Alexandru pursued advanced certifications in AML and compliance, grounding his expertise with formal education. His commitment to continuous learning and adaptation has been a hallmark of his career, enabling him to stay ahead in a field characterized by constant regulatory shifts.

Beyond his professional achievements, Alexandru is an active participant in industry forums and conferences, sharing his insights and contributing to the broader discourse on the future of iGaming compliance. His commitment to elevating the standards of the industry and mentoring the next generation of compliance professionals reflects his belief in the collective responsibility to promote integrity and transparency in iGaming. Alexandru Lupui's journey in the iGaming industry is a testament to the critical role of compliance in sustaining the sector's growth and public trust. Through his expertise, leadership, and vision, he continues to drive forward the standards of excellence and ethical practice in one of the digital age's most dynamic and challenging fields.



**Mr Nick Nocton** (Speaker)

**Partner (Innovation - Betting & Gaming) - Mishcon de Reya**

Nick is a Partner in the Innovation Department and Head of the Firm's top ranked Betting and Gaming Group. With over 20 years' experience advising stakeholders from all parts of the gambling and games industries, Nick's practice addresses commercial and regulatory matters, including regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings, licensing, AML and regulatory compliance, commercial contracts, and corporate/M&A.

The Mishcon Betting and Gaming team is top rated in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500.

Nick is identified as a "gaming and betting expert" by Chambers UK and Chambers Global with clients deeming him a "tremendous lawyer". Legal 500 have recognised him as a Leading Individual in this sector and he is part of its Hall of Fame. Nick is also a general member of the International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL).



**Ms Sian Harding** (Speaker)

**Associate (Innovation - Betting & Gaming) - Mishcon de Reya**

Sian is an Associate in the Betting and Gaming Group at Mishcon de Reya LLP. She has experience advising companies in the gambling and gaming sectors on regulatory and compliance matters, including responsible gambling, regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings.

Sian also supports clients on corporate transactions and commercial disputes.

## ARQ GROUP



**Dr Manfred Galdes**

A lawyer by profession, Manfred has over the past 23 years held leading roles in the area of regulatory and AML compliance. He leads a multi-disciplinary team at ARQ Group that advises major domestic financial institutions and top tier gaming companies, assisting them in ensuring compliance with a range of applicable laws.

He is also a non-executive director and chair of the Risk Committee of HSBC Malta plc, co-chair of the AML Sub-Committee of the Malta Institute of Accountants and Strategy Director of the ACAMS Malta Chapter.

Manfred is the former director of the FIAU, Malta's chief AML/CFT supervisory authority and FIU, a position he held for eight years.



**Mr Alexander Konewko**

With over 20 years' experience working in financial services, Alex has held roles as an Executive Director, Chief Risk Officer ('CRO'), and Board member and is a regulatory approved person by the European Central Bank ('ECB'). A seasoned business and risk expert with international experience across Europe, the UK, and the Middle East, Alex is a qualified chartered banking professional with a diverse working background in both large multinational banks as well as niche FinTech banks.

Alex has held the role of a regulatory approved person by the European Central Bank (ECB), MFSA (Malta), and NBB (Belgium) and is a qualified chartered banking professional. He has international expertise and challenger bank experience covering the full spectrum of banking segments, including retail, commercial, corporate, and private banking, with executive-level leadership and stakeholder management experience working across international borders and departments.



### Ms Martina Mifsud

Martina Mifsud heads ARQ's advisory team in the area of AML/CFT compliance. Prior to joining ARQ, she worked with the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit, carrying out both on-site and off-site AML/CFT inspections of financial services entities and DNFBPs. During this period, she was also involved in a series of national projects, such as the implementation of the risk-based approach to supervision in Malta. She also held the position of compliance officer within the fund administration and investment services sectors.

Martina advises a number of systemic and non-systemic banks in Malta as well as various top-tier gaming companies. She heads the team within ARQ that conducts AML/CFT audits, gap analyses and enterprise risk assessments and regularly delivers training to officers and staff of various institutions. She is a member of the sub-committee on the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism of the Malta Institute of Accountants and regularly lectures on financial crime matters.



### Mr Billy-Jay Smith

AML Technology Specialist, Risk and Compliance within ARQ Group. Billy serves as a critical conduit between the company's established legal and regulatory acumen and the perpetually advancing domain of technology. He is a passionate professional who believes in the power of data and its potential to drive decision-making processes.

He has a deep understanding of the complexities of AML compliance and has dedicated his career to finding efficient and effective solutions to these challenges.

In his previous roles focusing on AML Compliance at LeoVegas, Billy-Jay used his skills and knowledge to stay at the forefront of technology trends and advancements, always looking for new ways to drive efficiency and effectiveness. During his tenure he engaged in a number of AML/CFT regulatory audits, as well as leveraged his expertise of technical systems to enhance LeoVegas' internal controls. His expertise lies in his ability to incorporate the benefits of AI and machine learning technologies into these solutions, automating processes and improving efficiency.

He is now fully dedicated to assisting ARQ's clients in enhancing efficiency and effectiveness through automation.



### Dr Charlene Grech

Charlene is a notary by profession and a senior manager within the ARQ Risk & Compliance Team, providing AML/CFT-related advisory services to various entities and practitioners, including financial institutions and DNFBPs.

Charlene started her career in the field of AML/CFT compliance over 10 years ago when she worked with the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit, both in compliance supervision and financial analysis roles. Charlene was also one of the regulator's leading members involved in carrying out Malta's first National Risk Assessment.

Prior to joining ARQ, Charlene spent five years at IIG Bank (Malta) Ltd building the institution's compliance processes, including the development of AML/CFT policies and procedures, business and customer risk assessments, the implementation of the Bank's screening and monitoring systems, in addition to overseeing the compliance function through her managerial position.

Charlene holds a Doctor of Laws post-graduate degree from the University of Malta and a Diploma in Taxation awarded by the Malta Institute of Taxation.