

European-wide betting pool mooted by Swiss

BY HOWARD WRIGHT

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THE prospect of a European-wide betting pool was raised by Swiss Horseracing Federation president Jean-Pierre Kratzer, whose national interests have been significantly boosted by a link-up to the French PMU operation since 1991.

Kratzer suggested that the system could be extended to other countries, in order to create a 'common mass' of betting, which would supplement inadequate opportunities provided by the home country's racing product.

"We need a high quality supply of events, with a good infrastructure," he said. "The quality of supply also depends on the types of gambling, and we need to promote transparency and prevention of fraud."

Kratzer said he envisaged horserace betting emulating the Euro Millions lottery, with winners emerging from any European country.

"If we had an internet site in one country, the betting mass could be consolidated," he added. "The majority of European countries are not able to create that mass, but I would like each country to benefit from an attractive supply of horseracing."

"Pari-mutuel betting is the only solution that offers transparency and clarity, and if we can combine that with the principle of common mass, we have a unique chance to guarantee the survival of horseracing sector in Europe"