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DE BERTI JACCHIA IN €1.5BN BETTING CLAIM



UK-based Stanleybet, Europe's leading retail sports betting company, launched a compensation claim for €1.5bn against the Italian government yesterday (May 18). Italian independent firm De Berti Jacchia Franchini Forlani is advising the bookmaker, led by name partner **Roberto Jacchia** (pictured) and partners **Antonella Terranova** and **Fabio Ferraro**. The Italian government is represented by State Counsel.

The claim is for direct damages, lost earnings, loss of business opportunity and reputational damage over the period 1998-2006. Stanleybet's access was allegedly obstructed by parliamentary measures the bookmaker considers contrary to EU law – namely, the European Court of Justice's 2003 Gambelli ruling, confirming the right to cross-border betting services, and the 2007 Placanica ruling, which confirmed Stanleybet's right to offer services in Italy through a network of intermediaries.

"Today's action is a move of last resort," said John Whittaker, Stanleybet CEO.

"We have always been clear about wanting to reach a negotiated solution with the Italian government. Instead, we are still bound to fight what is now a 12-year battle to enforce our legal rights. Winning in the courts all along the line has not proved enough, and we must definitely put this to an end."

19/05/2010