

AGEM backing for Batumi Casino Investors Congress

UK (28 June) – The Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM), the respected international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers to the gaming industry, has given its endorsement of September’s inaugural Casino Investors Congress taking place in the Georgian Black Sea Resort of Batumi.

Las Vegas-based AGEM, comprised of 117 member companies, has agreed to become an official sponsor of the prestigious event, which has already attracted 57 leading casino figures from 22 countries. As part of its sponsorship of the Congress, AGEM members will receive discounted delegate rates and be guests at the prestigious networking events taking place including the VIP drinks reception, lunch and gala dinner, all of which are being hosted by leading political and economic decision-makers from the Autonomous Republic of Ajara including its Chairman Levan Varshalomidze.

Commenting on the arrangement, John Sullivan, whose company GB Media, publishers of International Casino Review, is organising the Casino Investors Congress, said: “As the most influential trade association in international gaming, AGEM’s endorsement lends further credibility to the opportunities which exist in Ajara and Batumi in particular. Batumi’s rebirth is being driven by a progressive, gaming friendly philosophy. Whilst gambling is prohibited in neighbouring countries, Georgia has implemented legislation which is both liberal and progressive. A Batumi casino licence is GEL 250,000/year (US \$150,000) compared to GEL 5 million (US\$ 3 million) in other Georgian cities. In addition, operators building hotels with a minimum of 100 rooms are able to acquire a casino licence free of charge for the first 10-years of operation. Batumi has a unique offer - a modern resort with access to a vast range of potential visitors from surrounding countries, many of which have banned gambling. Being at the crossroads between Europe and Asia also gives Batumi the ability to easily meet the expectations of guests from Turkey, Europe, Russia, Ukraine, other countries in the Caucasuses and the Middle East. It is a mouth-watering prospect for investors and I am delighted that AGEM and its members will be playing such a prominent role in helping to shape the development of gaming in this part of the world.”

Marcus Prater, Executive Director of AGEM said: “AGEM has worked with numerous regulatory bodies throughout the world in order to create a positive and responsible business environment in which our members can prosper. We’ve looked with great interest at the developments taking place in Ajara and Batumi in particular. The Casino Investors Congress provides an invaluable opportunity for AGEM and its members to share its experience and operational insights in order to help deliver a progressive and sustainable gaming sector as a central part of an integrated leisure and hospitality offering. Having access to the key political and economic decision-makers is a major feature and attraction of the Congress and an opportunity for the Government and the gaming industry to get it right first time.”

The Casino Investors Congress is taking place across the 4-6th of September at the Sheraton Batumi Hotel. For information on how to reserve your place contact John Sullivan at jsullivan@gbmedia.eu

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About AGEM:

The Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM) is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of electronic gaming devices, systems, table games, key components and support products and services for the gaming industry. AGEM works to further the interests of gaming equipment suppliers throughout the world. Through political action, regulatory influence, trade show partnerships, educational alliances,

information dissemination and good corporate citizenship, the members of AGEM work together to create benefits for every company within the organization. Together, AGEM has assisted regulatory agencies and participated in the legislative process to solve problems and create a business environment where AGEM members can prosper while providing a strong level of support to education and responsible gaming initiatives. For more information, visit www.AGEM.org.

About CIC Batumi:

The first Casino Investors Congress – taking place 4-6th September in the Black Sea resort of Batumi, Georgia – invites investors, operators and suppliers from across the worldwide casino sector to learn about and discuss the region's fiscal and regulatory framework, and the opportunities they have to gain a foothold in new gaming jurisdictions at the very outset. Attendees will network with the leading economic and political decision makers who are shaping the transformation of the area which, to quote Time Magazine, is 'developing at a speed that would make China blush.'