

Alert | Video Games & Esports



March 2026

PEGI Updates EU Video Game Age-Rating System

On March 12, 2026, the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system, which classifies video games by age appropriateness, **announced** updates to its video game age-rating framework, adding new criteria that directly address monetisation models and urgency-based sales tactics aimed at younger users. As these changes will take effect in June 2026, game publishers should consider proactively assessing their upcoming titles to determine whether any planned features might trigger a higher PEGI rating.

The classification criteria have been expanded, with the key updates summarised below:

Game Feature	Minimum PEGI Rating
Loot boxes/paid random items (e.g. card packs, gacha systems)	PEGI 16
Time- or quantity-limited offers (e.g. countdown timers, scarcity mechanics)	PEGI 12
Use of NFTs/blockchains	PEGI 18
Reward-based login systems	PEGI 7
Mechanics that penalise missed logins (e.g. loss of progress)	PEGI 12
Unrestricted online communications (e.g. absence of blocking or reporting tools)	PEGI 18

In its announcement, PEGI noted that it had updated its age-rating system in an effort to “bolster online safety and meet the concerns and questions of today’s parents.”

In-game monetisation has garnered attention from European regulators. In March 2025, the European Commission’s Consumer Protection Cooperation Network [published a guide](#) on in-game virtual currencies, outlining seven principles to help “traders in the gaming sector to act in line with the European consumer protection legislation when offering in-game virtual currencies.” Each of the principles ties back to existing EU laws, including the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, the Capital Requirements Directive, and the Unfair Contract Terms Directive, which may signal a growing interest in regulating digital transactions in the bloc. In its March 2026 update, PEGI included new age-rating measures for titles offering purchases of in-game content and paid random items, as well as for NFT and blockchain usage.

When updating its age-rating system, PEGI collaborated with the German age-rating authority (USK); the authority made [similar rating changes in the country](#) in 2023, after regulators updated the German Youth Protection Act.

While PEGI’s new system has not yet taken effect, game publishers will soon be required to share additional information about the titles they publish if the newly regulated features exist in the game. PEGI administrators would then take those features into consideration when determining the relevant age classification for the game. According to PEGI, publishers may submit games to the system to be examined prior to their announcement and/or release.

[Learn about Greenberg Traurig’s Video Games & Esports Practice.](#)

Author

This GT Alert was prepared by:

- [Robert Turner](#) | +44 (0) 203.349.8700 | Robert.Turner@gtlaw.com

Abu Dhabi[†]. Albany. Amsterdam. Aspen. Atlanta. Austin. Berlin[~]. Boston. Charlotte. Chicago. Dallas. Delaware. Denver. Dubai[†]. Fort Lauderdale. Houston. Las Vegas. London^{*}. Long Island. Los Angeles. Mexico City⁺. Miami. Milan^{*}. Minneapolis. Munich[~]. New Jersey. New York. Northern Virginia. Orange County. Orlando. Philadelphia. Phoenix. Portland. Riyadh^{*}. Sacramento. Salt Lake City. San Diego. San Francisco. São Paulo[›]. Seoul[∞]. Shanghai. Silicon Valley. Singapore[∞]. Tallahassee. Tampa. Tel Aviv[^]. Tokyo[∞]. Warsaw[~]. Washington, D.C. West Palm Beach. Westchester County.

This Greenberg Traurig Alert is issued for informational purposes only and is not intended to be construed or used as general legal advice nor as a solicitation of any type. Please contact the author(s) or your Greenberg Traurig contact if you have questions regarding the currency of this information. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision. Before you decide, ask for written information about the lawyer’s legal qualifications and experience. Greenberg Traurig is a service mark and trade name of Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Greenberg Traurig, P.A. [†]Greenberg Traurig’s Abu Dhabi office is a branch of Greenberg Traurig, P.A., which is registered with the Abu Dhabi Global Market Registration Authority (Registration No. 29906) and licensed to carry out legal services and regulated as a DNFBP by the ADGM Financial Services Regulatory Authority. [~]Greenberg Traurig’s Berlin and Munich offices are operated by Greenberg Traurig Germany, LLP, an affiliate of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP. [›]Greenberg Traurig’s Dubai office is operated by Greenberg Traurig Limited, a company registered in the Dubai International Financial Centre (Registration No. CL7238), regulated as a DNFBP by the Dubai Financial Services Authority and licensed by The Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department. ^{*}Operates as a separate UK registered legal entity. ⁺Greenberg Traurig’s Mexico City office is operated by Greenberg Traurig, S.C., an affiliate of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP. [»]Greenberg Traurig’s Milan office is operated by Greenberg Traurig Studio Legal Associato, an affiliate of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP. [«]Greenberg Traurig operates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through Greenberg Traurig Khalid Al-Thebity Law Firm, a professional limited liability company, licensed to practice law by the Ministry of Justice. [›]Greenberg Traurig’s São Paulo office is operated by Greenberg Traurig Brazil Consultores em Direito Estrangeiro – Direito Estadunidense, incorporated in Brazil as a foreign legal consulting firm. Attorneys in the São Paulo office do not practice Brazilian law. [∞]Operates as Greenberg Traurig LLP Foreign Legal Consultant Office. [∞]Greenberg Traurig’s Singapore office is operated by Greenberg Traurig Singapore LLP which is licensed as a foreign law practice in

Singapore. ^Greenberg Traurig's Tel Aviv office is a branch of Greenberg Traurig, P.A., Florida, USA. ¢Greenberg Traurig's Tokyo Office is operated by GT Tokyo Horitsu Jimusho and Greenberg Traurig Gaikokuhojimubengoshi Jimusho, affiliates of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP. ~Greenberg Traurig's Warsaw office is operated by GREENBERG TRAURIG Nowakowska-Zimoch Wysokiński sp.k., an affiliate of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Certain partners in GREENBERG TRAURIG Nowakowska-Zimoch Wysokiński sp.k. are also shareholders in Greenberg Traurig, P.A. Images in this advertisement do not depict Greenberg Traurig attorneys, clients, staff or facilities. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. ©2026 Greenberg Traurig, LLP. All rights reserved.