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Debates about children's online safety increasingly depend on simplified readings of scientific research, where complex and contested findings are mobilised to justify restrictive policy interventions. This article examines how evidence is reshaped as it travels through political debate, regulation, media and advocacy, producing what can be termed *academic populism*: the selective elevation of research to generate urgency and legislative momentum. Drawing on parliamentary exchanges over smartphone bans, controversies surrounding Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*, and case studies involving pornography research and perceptual-hashing technologies, it shows how correlation is framed as causation, peer review mistaken for consensus, and technical proof-of-concept studies generalised into regulatory certainties. It argues that such practices risk producing scientifically fragile policy with serious implications for children's rights and digital participation. The article concludes by calling for stronger evidence literacy, more responsible academic communication, and regulatory processes grounded in synthesis, proportionality and harm-reduction rather than performative certainty.

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## **Onto a Winner—CJEU Clarifies Applicable Law for Director Liability in Cross Border Online Gambling 100**

On 15 January 2026, the Court of Justice of the European Union handed down its much-anticipated decision in *Winner*, a landmark ruling with profound consequences for director liability in the online gambling sector. This article reviews the decision and considers its practical implications in light of Austria's position as the litigation forum for such claims.

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