



Thursday 12 July 2007

## Will Friday The 13<sup>th</sup> Prove Lucky For Someone?

This week is the perfect opportunity for *paraskavedekatriaphobics* to overcome their fear of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, as there is an estimated £36 million EuroMillions jackpot to win – so with lottery players throughout Europe hoping to win it big, where do different nationalities stand on luck and superstition?

In the UK we cannot help touching wood, crossing our fingers and avoiding walking under ladders for good luck – but what about our European neighbours? In France, it is bad luck to carry a cat across a stream. In Ireland, if someone finds a horse's back tooth and carries it round with them they will never want for money. It is unlucky for the Portuguese to cut their nails on a Friday, while if a white cat – rather than the conventional black moggy – crosses the path of a Spaniard or Belgian, it is considered good luck.

To mark Friday 13 July and the massive EuroMillions Rollover, The National Lottery can also reveal how UK attitudes to luck and superstition compare to those in France and Spain – the two other biggest EuroMillions nations. It turns out that we Brits are luckier than we think – even though, true to form, we are more pessimistic than our friends across the channel.

When it comes to *bonne chance* or *buena suerte*, the optimistic French (at 48%) and Spanish (at 45%) consider themselves the luckiest people in Europe. In comparison, just over a quarter (27%) of gloomy Brits feel luck is on their side. While 72% cent of Spaniards view the number 13 as just a number, nearly half (43%) of people in France think it is actually lucky. Surprisingly for the ever-cautious UK, almost three quarters (73%) of respondents do not see 13 as unlucky.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "Even though superstitions vary across Europe, with an estimated £36 million EuroMillions jackpot to win, everyone will be hoping they have luck on their side this Friday. We've got our fingers crossed that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> proves lucky for someone here in the UK."

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# News

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Spain and France are more inclined to look positively at superstition and increasing their good luck – whereas in the UK, people tend to focus on what could go wrong. In France, people are most likely to touch wood for good luck (27%), while the British believe that bad luck would come from walking under a ladder (13%) or breaking a mirror (9%). Likewise, the French are most likely to have a lucky charm (47%), compared to around a third of Spaniards (36%) and less than a quarter of people in the UK (24%).

EuroMillions is the world's biggest multi-national lottery game by total population eligible to play. To win the jackpot on Friday, players need to match five main numbers from one to 50 and two Lucky Star numbers from one to nine – but with 12 prize levels in total, EuroMillions offers a greater range of prizes than any other National Lottery draw. EuroMillions costs £1.50 to play and the draw is shown every Friday on UKTV Gold at 10.20pm.

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**For further information, please contact  
Camelot Press Office: 020 7632 5711**

#### Notes to Editors:

- Camelot Group plc is the licensed operator of The National Lottery® and is committed to raising money for the Good Causes designated by Parliament. Camelot is not responsible for distributing or awarding these funds
- To date, over £20 billion has been raised for Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 250,000 individual awards have been made across the UK – the biggest programme of civic and social regeneration since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The National Lottery has given away over £29 billion in prizes and created more than 2,000 millionaires or multi-millionaires since launch in 1994
- Camelot runs one of the most cost-efficient lotteries in the world, with around 5% of total revenue taken in operating costs. At 40% of total sales (28% to the Good Causes and 12% in lottery duty to the Government), Camelot returns a higher proportion of lottery revenue back to society than any other lottery operator in the world. National Lottery retailers receive 5% of total revenue in commission, and 50% of sales is paid out to players in prizes
- Camelot is committed to the highest standards in player protection and social responsibility in both the retail and interactive environments. The National Lottery website, Sky Active and Play By Text services have been accredited by GamCare, the UK's national centre for information, advice and practical help regarding the social impact of gambling – while Camelot's approach to game design, test purchasing and retailer vigilance campaigns ensures player protection at retail. Camelot is ranked first in the leisure sector in Business in the Community's 2007 Corporate Responsibility Index
- For further information on Camelot, The National Lottery and its games, please visit the following websites: [www.camelotgroup.co.uk](http://www.camelotgroup.co.uk) and [www.national-lottery.co.uk](http://www.national-lottery.co.uk)
- Players of all National Lottery games must be aged 16 or over
- The crossed fingers logo is the registered trademark of the National Lottery Commission.

*The market research was undertaken by tickbox.net among more than 4,500 people, evenly spread across Spain, France and the UK.*



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