



COMOROS ISLANDS

Anjouan offshore banking dispute trial

A ruling in a British court enabled Anjouan Corporate Services to be the only firm to sell licences to register in the Anjouan financial offshore sector.

The Royal Court of Justice in London recently gave its verdict on the dispute between the French businessman [Fabien Lecler](#) (who had lived for a while on Reunion Island) and the British magnate [Johnny Sei-Hoe Hon](#) concerning the Anjouan financial offshore sector. Hon, represented by the firm [Russel Jones & Walker](#), had taken Lecler to court over a libel in a conflict dating back to 2003. This was when a change in the island's government resulted in Lecler losing the right to issue international licences for banking, insurance and Internet gambling activities by basing them in the Anjouan offshore financial area. The new island's government instead gave this right to Johnny Sei-Hoe Hon. The two men then waged vehement verbal warfare via their respective web sites.

At the outcome of the trial in London, Lecler accepted to apologize to Hon in order to avoid being condemned for libel. He also admitted that the latter had obtained the authorisation to issue these licences entirely legally in 2003. Finally, he also accepted to remove his Internet web sites criticising Hon or continuing to sell offshore licences in the name of the Anjouan authorities.

However, last year Hon and his company [Global Financial Marketing](#) sold its right to issue the said licences to the firm [Anjouan Corporate Services](#) (ION 1171). Therefore, it is this latter firm, set up by [Ronnie Dvorkin](#) with the approval of the President of Anjouan, [Mohamed Bacar](#) (see www.anjouan.gouv.km), which has now had its legitimacy reinforced by this verdict from the London high court. Last year, President Bacar had failed in his attempt to have the [World Intellectual Property Organisation](#) (WIPO) prevent Lecler's web sites from referring to Anjouan (ION 1172).

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