



UEFA·direct

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EURO 2012 in the spotlight

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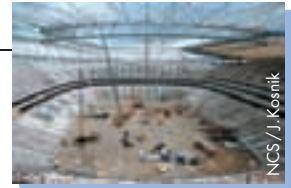
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The Olympic Stadium in Kyiv is ready to host UEFA EURO 2012. After the play-offs in November, Kyiv will also host the final draw on 2 December.

Photo: Ria Novosti

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Listening to the national associations

"To govern is to plan ahead," said journalist and politician Emile de Girardin, referring to an art that is certainly more difficult nowadays than it was in the 19th century, since change, often sudden and swift, is a permanent feature of our world today.

Going back further still, another renowned politician, Cardinal Richelieu, said that in order to govern a country well, it was necessary to listen a lot. This piece of advice remains equally pertinent today and applies just as much to sports bodies as to states, or indeed any other democratic form of government.

It certainly applies to UEFA, whose leaders, the members of the Executive Committee, are the elected representatives of the national associations. As such, it is their duty, the president included, to listen to those who elected them, to ensure the decisions they take are in line with the wishes of the majority and, in particular, are always in the general interest.

The national associations enjoy no shortage of opportunities to make their views heard, whether at UEFA Congresses or committee meetings, through correspondence or during visits to the House of European Football, whose doors are always open to them.

Even so, we thought it would be worthwhile to provide an additional forum for discussion, one that was less formal than a UEFA Congress but broader than individual or small group discussions.

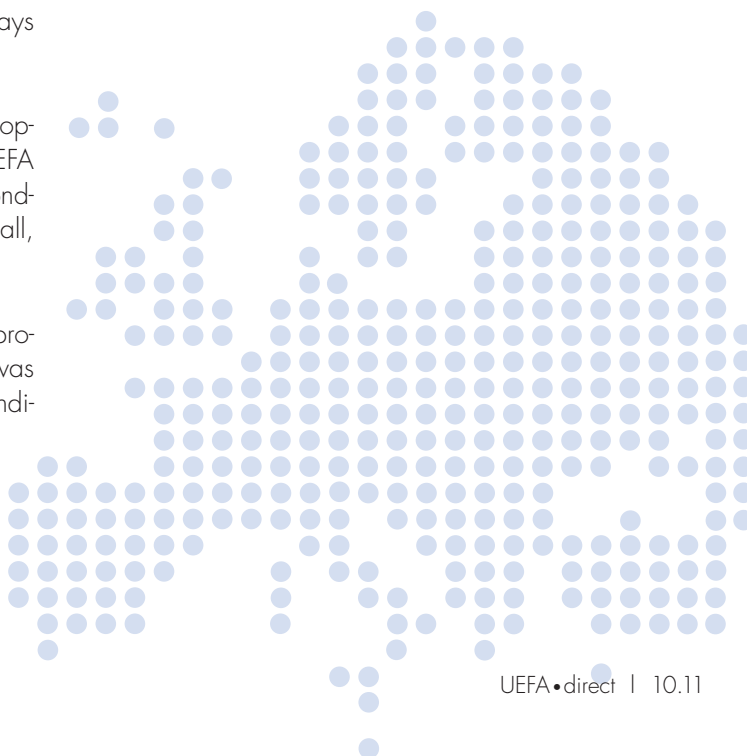


This was the idea behind the strategy meeting of presidents and general secretaries held in Cyprus in September, when the Executive Committee was able to hear what the leaders of the national associations had to say on various issues relating to European football and its future. Their views and opinions will now serve as guidelines in the executive's decision-making.

Declared a constructive experience by everyone who took part and one that was definitely worth repeating, the meeting in Cyprus will therefore certainly not have been the first and last of its kind.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'M. Platini'.

Michel Platini
UEFA President



Educating the coaches of the future

It is a curious fact of life that if students go on to make names for themselves, their teachers are seldom remembered. Football is no exception to the rule.

For example, when 'Pep' Guardiola and Sir Alex Ferguson led FC Barcelona and Manchester United FC on to the Wembley turf for last season's UEFA Champions League final, their faces were instantly recognisable to a global TV audience in excess of 160 million. It is probably not much of an exaggeration to assert that only a handful of the millions would be able to identify the educators who had tutored and assessed Pep and Sir Alex

more than anybody, need to be totally up to date in their approach to the job. After all, it's pointless to train coaches for a game that existed 20 years ago. Football has evolved very quickly – and the educators have to keep pace with that." The core theme of the three-day event was therefore "coaching coaches in 2011".

In opening the event, Dušan Svoboda, vice-president of the Czech FA, underlined that "everybody involved in coach education these days has to understand the game from several different perspectives." This was endorsed by Sir Trevor Brooking, who was representing UEFA's Development and Technical Assistance Committee in Prague. After outlining how the English FA had adapted its coach education structures in response to trends in the game over recent years, he added "there is also diversity among the student coaches, which can represent additional challenges. Players sometimes leave it very late to begin their coaching studies, while others mistakenly think that coach education is not an essential basis for obtaining jobs."

Spanish benchmark

The parameters of Spanish football provided something of a benchmark at the workshop in Prague,

and Ginés Meléndez, the coordinator of all the national association's age-limit teams, had no doubts about attributing Spain's sustained successes to the quality of coach education in his country. "The basis for the performances of our national teams," he said in Prague, "is the quality of the coaches who do so much hard work at the clubs and send players into our national teams perfectly well-equipped to play at the highest level. UEFA has had a lot to do with this, because the Coaching Convention and the coach education programmes have helped to raise standards all over Europe. You can see this when you play games in qualifying rounds – not just in final tournaments. Teams may have varying degrees of individual talent but the standards of coaching have risen so significantly that it's quite rare to have easy



UEFA

during the courses which earned them their coaching diplomas. The coaching profession's "unsung heroes" from UEFA's 53 member associations formed the list of participants at the 9th UEFA Coach Education Workshop, which was staged in Prague in conjunction with the Czech FA from 21 to 23 September.

Demanding job

As UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, pointed out in the Czech capital, coach education is a demanding job. "Educating student coaches is a big task," he said. "The coach educator has to inspire, protect and assess the students and prepare them for the realities which are going to confront them when they step into the technical area and the dressing room. Coach educators,

The workshop involved group discussions...



UEFA

games. You can see where good work is being done and bearing fruit."

Andy Roxburgh traced this development during the opening day in Prague, emphasising the fundamental importance of knowing where coach education has come from and where it needs to go in the future. UEFA's commitment, he stressed, is to support the coaching profession right the way across the spectrum, from the students to the frontline coaches and the educators. The starting point in Prague was to review the status of the UEFA Coaching Convention, which now has all 53 member associations as signatories and which has, in 2011, provided the basis for the awarding of 161,086 UEFA-endorsed coaching licences. During the event, there was also unanimous acclaim for UEFA's Study Group Scheme and the plans to stage an additional 55 seminars in 31 host associations during the current season, 11 of them specifically targeting coach education issues. The participants in Prague also received progress updates on the addition of UEFA-endorsed licences for fitness, goalkeeping and futsal coaches, with four pilot seminars for goalkeeper coaches in Belgium, the Republic of Ireland, Sweden and the Netherlands already written into the 2011/12 fixture list.

Feedback from national associations

The evolution of top-level football and the need for coach education to stay ahead of the game formed the basis for presentations in which Dušan Fitzel and Antonin

Plachy (technical director and head of coach education respectively) traced the changes in structures and philosophy currently being implemented by the Czech national association, while Nico Romeijn, coach education manager at the Dutch FA, explained the development of the Elite Youth A licence in the Netherlands over the last decade.

The workshop in Prague also presented an opportunity for UEFA to receive feedback from national associations, via discussion group sessions in which the participants were invited to assess the impact of UEFA's coach education programmes, suggest additional contributions by UEFA in technical development, pinpoint areas where problems are being encountered and examine ways of enhancing protection and support for practising coaches. With regard to this final point, there was considerable interest in a presentation by Howard Wilkinson who, as chairman of England's League Managers Association, outlined the great advances made during recent years in terms of offering support services on 11 different fronts to members of the coaching profession. The desire to enhance recognition and respect for coach educators was also a prime pretext for Andy Roxburgh to present a commemorative plaque to mark the retirement of Mircea Radulescu and recognise his work as president of the Romanian federation's technical commission and director of the national coaching school. At the event in Prague, it was a nice cherry to put on the top of a solid and fruity coach education cake. ●

... and
plenary
sessions

Poland and Ukraine in the spotlight

With less than eight months to go until the start of UEFA EURO 2012, which takes place from 8 June to 1 July next year, anticipation is building among the governments of the host countries, the local organising committees, UEFA and its member associations, not to mention football fans everywhere.



Since 18 April 2007, when the UEFA Executive Committee first announced Poland and Ukraine as the co-hosts of EURO 2012, the two countries have worked tirelessly to demonstrate that the faith placed in them has been fully merited. Within a short space of time, the infrastructure of the two countries has undergone an unprecedented transformation. With the overhaul of motorways, urban transport systems, airports and rail networks, the modernisation and expansion of hotel infrastructure and, of course, the construction of new stadiums, Poland and Ukraine have shown a total commitment to ensuring they can successfully stage an event on this scale.

Travel updates

In order to facilitate travel arrangements for visitors and officials during the tournament, particular emphasis has been placed on modernising the airports that serve the eight host cities: Gdansk, Poznan, Warsaw and Wroclaw in Poland; and Lviv, Kyiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk in Ukraine. New terminals and runways have enabled a several-fold increase in passenger capacities. The Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, for example, now boasts a completely renovated airport that includes two new terminals. Bypasses have been built to reduce congestion on the roads in and around the city centres, new road signage has been installed to make it as easy as possible for visitors to find their way to key EURO 2012 locations such as the stadiums, the fan zones, railway stations and airports, and new trains, buses and trams have been brought into operation to replace older and often outmoded stock.

Thanks to newly built hotel facilities, and those available in regions neighbouring the host cities, the 1.6 mil-

lion people who are expected to visit Poland and Ukraine to attend EURO 2012 will all be comfortably accommodated. In Donetsk, the organisers plan to compensate for the shortage of local hotel capacity by laying on charter flights to and from Kyiv on match nights.

The last of the eight new venues will be inaugurated next February, when the national stadium in Warsaw officially opens its gates. The stadiums in Gdansk, Poznan, Donetsk and Kharkiv have already staged very successful test matches, while the venues in Wroclaw, Kyiv and Lviv are due to host their inaugural games in November.

Kyiv set for the final draw

The key to the success of any tournament of this magnitude is the active involvement and support of the local population. EURO 2012 will be the first European Championship finals in history to take place in the former Eastern Bloc, a fact that inspired the tournament slogan "Creating History Together".

The LOCs of Poland and Ukraine, which are in charge of the preparations, have been working hard to ensure that this tournament is positively received by their respective local populations. The Friends of EURO campaign and the volunteer recruitment programme have helped ensure that EURO 2012 is already part of the daily lives of Poles and Ukrainians, an overwhelming majority of whom are giving the project their full support.

With the scene set, all that remains is for football to take centre stage. That moment will draw a step closer on 2 December, when 14 of the 51 national teams that began the qualifying competition will join co-hosts Poland and Ukraine at Kyiv's Palace of Culture for the EURO 2012 final draw. ●

The stadium in Kyiv during its transformation



Analysis of the strategy meeting of presidents and general secretaries

The day after the strategy meeting attended by the presidents and general secretaries of the UEFA member associations in Limassol on 20 and 21 September, the Executive Committee met with the president, Michel Platini, in the chair.



The first part of the Executive Committee meeting was spent analysing the strategy meeting and the opinions and suggestions that had been expressed during it. Since the strategy meeting was essentially consultative in nature, it will be necessary to continue discussing many of the subjects that were covered, be they the international match calendar (for which FIFA is ultimately responsible), the competitions for senior and Under-21 national teams, the Olympic tournament, youth and women's competitions, futsal or supranational leagues, or indeed questions relating to governance and relations with leagues, clubs and players. While the national association representatives were unanimous on issues such as the centralised marketing of qualifying matches played by senior national teams, the principle of international double headers for qualifying competitions and, in a different sphere altogether, the need for more transparent FIFA governance, opinions differed on subjects such as the size of the final rounds of certain youth competitions and the potential advantages of supranational leagues. The Executive Committee will therefore revisit all these issues at its forthcoming meetings. These sessions with

the association presidents and general secretaries are, however, clearly extremely useful, so much so that the Executive Committee has decided that they should be held every two years from now on.

The Executive Committee also noted that the turbulence of the money markets had not affected UEFA's healthy financial situation. It approved the Finance Committee's proposal that strategic financial outlooks should only be presented to the Congress every two years in future and, still on the topic of finance, it heard that income from the two club competitions in the 2010/11 season had produced surpluses of €31 million for the UEFA Champions League and €7 million for the UEFA Europa League. These sums had been shared among the participating clubs in accordance with the usual distribution system.

More than €21 million for refereeing

Since it was adopted in 2005, membership of the UEFA Convention on Referee Education and Organisation has grown continuously. In Limassol, the Executive Committee approved the admission of four new associa- →

The Executive Committee in Limassol

Meeting of the Executive Committee

→ tions, those of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia and San Marino. A total of 48 associations are now members, including Liechtenstein, the only partial member.

An evaluation of the convention's impact showed numerous improvements both in the organisation of refereeing, which was now structured and independent, and in referee recruitment, the referee observer system, training programmes, referees' physical condition, equipment distribution and financial resources. In view of this extremely positive assessment, the Executive Committee

informed that clubs would be required to appoint supporter liaison officers, for whom a workshop would be held in October.

With 260 days to go before the start of UEFA EURO 2012, the Executive Committee welcomed the progress that had been made in the preparation of the stadiums and the construction of airport facilities, although the hotel situation remained a source of concern. It was also updated on the commercial aspects, where it was predicted that income would be similar to that of EURO 2008 but organisational costs would be higher.

The committee also agreed to renew the memorandum of understanding with the European section of the professional footballers' union FIFPro.

To conclude, the Executive Committee received a UEFA administration staff review. The number of permanent full-time staff employed by UEFA and its subsidiary, UEFA Events SA, was 328 in June 2011. This figure will rise to 378 by the end of June 2012 as a result of numerous new activities, particularly related to match organisation. There will also be 178 temporary staff members for EURO 2012 alone.

The average age of the staff is 40 and their average length of service is seven years. A total of 44 nationalities are represented. Men account for 65% of the staff and women 35%.

In brief

At its meeting in Cyprus, the Executive Committee also:

- approved a donation of €500,000 to the Japanese Football Association as a gesture of solidarity following the natural disaster that hit the country in the spring;
- appointed the members of the UEFA expert panels for the 2011–13 period;
- heard a report on the Elite Club Coaches Forum (one of the subjects covered in the *UEFA Technician* included in this publication);
- approved the creation of a working group of the UEFA Club Competitions Committee to examine all aspects of the possible launch of a European club youth competition;
- confirmed the date and venue of its final meeting of the year: 8 December in Venice. ●



As of next spring, UEFA's new office building, Bois-Bougy, will house 190 UEFA staff

decided to extend the convention funding from 2012 to 2016. For the new period, therefore, more than €21 million will be earmarked for refereeing, a total that includes an annual contribution of €100,000 for each full convention member (€75,000 for the partial member) and a bonus of €100,000 for new members.

Objectives for the 2012–16 period were laid down, including the extension of the convention to all the UEFA member associations, the development of exchange programmes between the associations, the establishment of European standards for referee training and the representation of more associations in the top category of UEFA referees.

As far as the UEFA Grassroots Charter was concerned, the Executive Committee approved the granting of three-star status to the Football Association of Slovenia, with the extra star allocated in recognition of the number of registered players.

In the field of financial fair play, the Executive Committee noted the efforts of the Club Financial Control Panel, which will have met five times this year. It was also



CYPRUS – 20/21 September
Strategy meeting of the presidents
and general secretaries of UEFA's
member associations



Photos: UEFA

Karen Espelund leads the way

The development of women's football received a new boost when Norway's Karen Espelund became the first woman to join the UEFA Executive Committee. As she explains, her aim is "to be a positive role model".

Karen Espelund made history in June by becoming the first woman to be invited to join the Executive Committee. She is, of course, hardly an unknown figure in the football world. Over the last 35 years or so, Espelund has occupied roles at every level. A former player, she subsequently made the smooth transition to life as a football administrator, and went on to amass experience serving on a multitude of different bodies, both in her native Norway and at international level. While her main focus has been the development of women's football, she also boasts an excellent knowledge of the men's game, having served as general secretary of the Norwegian Football Association (NFF). However, she reveals that she had never considered standing for election to the UEFA Executive Committee. "It was never something that crossed my mind. I was already an active member of several women's football committees and we were making good progress. My nomination came as a surprise. It's a historic moment, which means I feel a great sense of responsibility. So I want to ensure that I'm a positive role model. The response from other female FIFA and UEFA committee members has been very positive. UEFA is doing everything it can to ensure the progress of women's football, and has sent out a strong

message to those associations that have not yet formed national women's teams."

Of UEFA's 53 member associations, 45 now have a national women's team. "The cultural differences that exist within Europe are enormous. In Norway, macho attitudes are disappearing: a lot of daughters of footballers have inherited their fathers' talents on the pitch... And going beyond the sporting world, look at the growing percentage of women involved in politics and social affairs."

Quota system

The Norwegian says that she has no problem being the only woman on the Executive Committee: "By taking on this role I have entered a male environment," she acknowledges. "Our cooperation is going well. We talk about football! All the same, it would be better if there were two of us: as long as I'm the only woman I'm a bit of a stereotype. That's why I'm in favour of quotas. We need to have more women on the committees. Obviously, they need to prove their competence, but without a quota system they don't have much of a chance. It's getting a foothold at a certain level that is difficult. Sometimes you have to take a risk. After all, are all men really

35 years of experience



Karen Espelund at a meeting of general secretaries in Nyon in 2005

UEFA

Karen Espelund joined Trondheim Orns in 1976 and played for their first team until 1985. A midfielder, she played 309 matches and scored 56 goals. As captain for several seasons, she helped them win two national league titles, in 1977 and 1983. She also earned two caps for Norway.

She went on to become a member of several committees of the Norwegian Football Association. She served on its executive committee from 1988 to 1999 and was named vice-president in 1996, before going on to serve as general secretary from 1999 to 2009. Prior to being invited to join the UEFA Executive Committee, she served on a number of different FIFA and UEFA committees.

In 2010, Espelund, who has a degree in social sciences, was also appointed director of culture and communications for the county authority of Sør-Trøndelag and president of the local youth festival. P.P.



Dominic Favre

Women's football is drawing the attention of the media

competent? We need changes and at times our environment can still be a little too conservative. I'm not calling for a 50:50 split, but at the very least we need to have two women per committee or per level."

Although, as a member by invitation, she does not have voting rights, Karen Espelund is able to exert a real influence on the Executive Committee, and not just in terms of women's football. *"In my 20 years with the NFF, my interest was in football in its entirety. I was also responsible for men's football. A lot of decisions taken by the Executive Committee result directly from discussions and debates. I take part in these on an equal footing with the others."*

Foundations

Karen Espelund was catapulted straight into senior football at a young age, because there were no youth teams for her to join. *"It was very brutal. At 14, I felt very small coming up against women who were twice my age. It's essential to establish age categories at two-year intervals, the same as we have for boys, from the earliest possible age."* Nowadays, young girls are allowed to play for boys' teams. Espelund has nothing against this, but notes *"only the best of the girls get to play. What's more, a lot of girls are put off because they're afraid of joining a boys' team."*

Norway currently has 110,000 registered women players, which is an enormous number in relation to the country's overall population. *"During the 1980s and '90s the NFF placed a big emphasis on grassroots football and attracted girls into the game. National associations must actively promote women's football; they need to go into the schools and the clubs. All young girls should be able to find themselves a club near where they live."*

Turkish club Fenerbahçe recently made the headlines when, rather than play behind closed doors, they an-

nounced that their stadium would only be open to women and children. The family atmosphere this created won admirers around the world. *"This can only be good for the development of women's football in Turkey, but equally it will help the fight against hooliganism and violence,"* says Espelund. *"Just look at the attendances at the World Cup. You see a lot of women at the games and you rarely see any trouble."*

Driving force

From early childhood, many boys revel in the exploits of their footballing idols and aspire to becoming footballers themselves. The same sometimes happens with young girls, but without any female role models to look up to, they run the risk of never graduating beyond fans. Just like other sports, women's football needs driving forces to propel it forward. *"That's why we need strong teams,"* stresses Espelund. *"In men's football you have national teams at U17 and U19 level, as well as senior level. We need to develop the professionalism and financial side of women's football. TV channels in Germany, Sweden and Norway show Women's Champions League games and matches of their national sides, and they sometimes also show highlights from league matches. That's very positive. What's more, the recent Women's World Cup in Germany was terrific, in terms of the quality of the football, the atmosphere and the organisation."*

The tournament in Germany generated a lot of interest from men too, who discovered a much higher standard of football than some had expected.

Karen Espelund finishes by posing a question that sums up perfectly the sense of ostracism that still afflicts the women's game: *"Why is football the only game where people compare men and women?"* ●

Pascale Pierard

Development ambassador

Former German international and head of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup organising committee, Steffi Jones has been appointed as the ambassador for UEFA's women's football development programme.



The announcement was made in cooperation with the German Football Association at a UEFA Women's Champions League match between 1. FFC Frankfurt and Stabaek FK.

This marks another step in UEFA's efforts to develop and promote women's football, which are both practical, with additional financial assistance for the national associations from 2012, within the framework of the HatTrick III programme, and symbolic, with the invitation to the chairwoman of the Women's Football Committee, Karen Espelund, to participate in all Executive Committee meetings. ●

Integrity officers

First workshop in Nyon

At the Executive Committee's initiative, a network of integrity officers has been set up within the national associations to combat match fixing.

The integrity officers met for the first time at a workshop held at UEFA headquarters in Nyon on 14 and 15 September. As well as acting as liaison officers between the football authorities and state law enforcement agencies, they will also gather information and data, which they will share among themselves and with UEFA, and monitor any related disciplinary proceedings in their respective countries. In terms of prevention, they will also organise educational programmes for players, referees and coaches. ●

UEFA Pro licence

Top coaching students meet in Nyon

After two successful pilot events in Nyon and on the occasion of the Under-21 finals in Denmark, UEFA's coach education exchange programme for Pro-licence students officially kicked off with a seminar staged in Nyon from 26 to 29 September.

The four-day event involved 53 student coaches from Belarus, Cyprus, Kazakhstan and Moldova and was directed by UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, along with Howard Wilkinson of England and Jerzy

Engel of Poland – the latter something of an expert in the development of Cypriot coach education after more than a decade of working on the island.

In terms of adopting a proactive approach to the seminar, the participants were more than a match for the coaching teams, who had already taken part in the two pilot runs. They relished the chance to engage in debate with the UEFA experts on topics such as leadership, media training, man management, playing trends, crisis management and the qualities required of today's top coaches. During two evenings their match analysis abilities were put to the test after watching, on the giant screen in the auditorium at UEFA's headquarters, UEFA

Champions League matches played in Munich and St Petersburg. On three of the four seminar days, their ability to design and conduct training sessions was also put to the test on the pitch at the Colovray stadium, which forms part of UEFA's headquarters complex.

"It was a diverse but dynamic group," Andy Roxburgh said afterwards. "The Pro-licence students made the most of the opportunity to add an international dimension to their coach education and the feedback from all four delegations was extremely positive – and augurs well for the future of the student exchange project."

Three similar events have also been written into UEFA's fixture list for the 2011/12 season. ●



Theory time for the Pro-licence students

A landmark text on match fixing

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, delivered a keynote speech as a guest of the Council of Europe on 28 September in Strasbourg, speaking just after the international body's Committee of Ministers had voted through a landmark recommendation on match fixing.

The Council of Europe has 47 member states, so it reaches considerably further afield than the European Union. Recommendations by the Council of Europe do not have legal force themselves but they can lead the way to legally binding international conventions.

Commenting on the result of the vote, Michel Platini said: *"I am delighted to see European politicians taking the threat match fixing poses to sport seriously. The world of sport is united in its condemnation of match fixing but we need politicians to join our efforts to combat this scourge. The Council of Europe has today taken the political lead in the fight against this menace to the future of sport, and I hope the EU institutions will follow."*

The UEFA president said the phenomenon was closely linked to online betting activities. *"European football is afraid, and I think I can even say that European sport as a whole is afraid. The growth of betting-related match fixing is alarming,"* he said, *"especially because it is a problem to which no sport and no country is immune."*

He pointed out that match fixing was orchestrated by criminal organisations but still many European states did not cover the offence in their criminal legislation. As he



The UEFA president addresses the Council of Europe

The EU has also started looking into the manipulation of sports results. The European Commission, the EU's executive body, adopted a green paper on online gambling in March this year, which launched a consultation process on match fixing, among other things. The European Parliament is due to air its views on the green paper later this year.

Which match fixing was the main topic of his speech, the UEFA president also urged the Council of Europe to help football seek solutions to violence in stadiums. This is an area where the Council of Europe has already set a political landmark through its convention on combating violence, discrimination and hooliganism in stadiums. However, the European convention on spectator violence dates back to 1985. Michel Platini pledged UEFA's support to the international body were it to decide to update this convention.

He told the Committee of Ministers: *"The merits of this text are numerous. However, more than a quarter of a century after its adoption, it is perhaps necessary to update it, reinvigorate it and adapt it to the demands of the 21st century. This is what we are committing ourselves to do today, hand in hand with the Council of Europe."*

"You can be sure that we will not make any compromises with hooliganism and we will redouble our efforts to kick violence out of our stadiums, to eliminate it. Notice, I did not say reduce, limit or contain – I said 'eliminate' it. I believe it is possible to eliminate violence in our stadiums. Legislators and governments must, in any case, think about it constantly and relentlessly; in matters such as this, as long as everything possible has not been done, our duty has not been fulfilled."



Council of Europe

told the Council of Ministers, *"this deficiency is, in part, why match fixing is still going on. Its international nature aggravates the situation further still. This is why I believe the Council of Europe now needs to intervene. It needs to intervene in order to encourage its member states to criminalise sports fraud and it needs to act in order to promote the indispensable cooperation between public authorities and sports governing bodies required in this regard. It is a question of responsibility, a question of ethics, a question of justice."*

Beach soccer

World title for Russia

Russia ended Brazil's impressive run by winning the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, which was played on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, in Ravenna, Italy, from 1 to 11 September.

Having won the four previous editions, Brazil had truly monopolised the World Cup and, unbeaten on their way to the final – despite one scare in a group match against Ukraine and another against Nigeria in the quarter-finals – they were clearly expecting to prolong their reign after overcoming one of their fiercest rivals of recent years, Portugal, in a 4-1 semi-final win.

However, in the final, which was also the highest-scoring match of the whole tournament (12-8), Brazil could not cope with the skill and collective strength of the Russians, who themselves had enjoyed a straightforward run to the final, winning all five matches and scoring 32 goals, with only 13 conceded.

To add to the European silverware, Portugal won the bronze medal by beating El Salvador 3-2 in the match for third place. Tournament hosts Italy were knocked out by El Salvador after extra time in the quarter-finals.

The European contingent was completed by Ukraine, who took Brazil all the way to penalties in the group stage, and by Switzerland. ●



Russia v Brazil in the final in Ravenna

FIFA/Getty Images

UEFA Futsal Cup

Elite round groups



A draw was held in Nyon on 11 October to decide the four elite round groups in the UEFA Futsal Cup.

The matches will be played between 12 and 20 November, with the mini-tournament winners qualifying for the final round in April.

Group A: Kairat Almaty, KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac, Châtelineau Futsal, **MFK Dinamo Moskva**

Group B: Araz Naxçivan, **FC Barcelona**, Club Futsal Eindhoven, FK EP Chrudim

Group C: **Sporting Clube de Portugal**, Iberia Star Tbilisi, City'US Târgu Mures, Györi ETO FC

Group D: ASD Città di Montesilvano C/5, **Marca Futsal**, Slo-Matic Bratislava, Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk ●

Mini-tournament hosts in bold

UEFA Women's Champions League

Down to the last 16



The round of 32 of the UEFA Women's Champions League was completed at the beginning of October with all the favourites, including current holders Olympique Lyonnais, who beat the Romanians of CFF Olimpia Cluj, advancing to the next round.

The round of 16 matches, which are listed below, will be played on 2/3 and 9/10 November:

- 1. FFC Frankfurt v Paris Saint-Germain FC
- Olympique Lyonnais v AC Sparta Praha
- SV Neulengbach v FC Malmö
- Fortuna Hjørring v Göteborg FC
- FC Energy Voronezh v FC Rossiyanka
- Rayo Vallecano de Madrid v Arsenal Ladies FC
- 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam v Glasgow City LFC
- Brøndby IF v ASD Torres CF

● In the European Women's Under-19 Championship, the first qualifying round was completed at the end of September, with 21 teams reaching the second qualifying round, where they will join Germany, England and France, who were given first-round byes. The draw will take place on 15 November, with the final round to be staged in Turkey in 2012. ●

Intercultural exchange

Chinese coaches in Nyon

As part of the EU-China Year of Youth, UEFA has launched a training programme for young Chinese coaches in cooperation with the European Commission.



The Chinese delegation in Nyon

UEFA

At the beginning of October, 40 young Chinese coaches arrived at the Colovray sports centre in Nyon for a week-long programme of expert presentations and practical sessions aimed at showing them how young players are coached in Europe, particularly at youth academies. ●

100 years of football



This year Belarusian football is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The first organised match on the territory of Belarus took place in Gomel, where 1st Gomel played Nadezhda on 20 August 1911, marking the birth of football in Belarus.

There have been a lot of bright moments in the history of Belarusian football but the majority of fans and experts will agree that one of the most significant was when FC Dinamo Minsk won the USSR champions title in 1982. To this day their success remains an achievement of national importance.

Likewise, it is impossible not to recall the birth of the national team in 1992 and their first match on 28 October that year against Ukraine (1-1). This was another very proud moment for whole country.

This year, the Belarus U21 team also entered the history books of Belarusian football, having qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Grassroots focus

The centenary celebrations kicked off in Gomel on 20 August, with an award ceremony for the winners of a tournament for schools in rural areas, a ceremony for the veterans of Gomel football and a football festival for children aged six to ten. The local festivities reached a climax with a match between the veterans of Gomel football and grassroots football ambassadors.

The celebrations continued in September when a week of grassroots football and a FIFA grassroots seminar were organised in Belarus. During the week, football instructors from all over the country were taught the key principles of grassroots football and how to organise football festivals for kids. They were given an opportunity to apply what they had learnt under the watchful eyes of experienced instructors from FIFA and the Football Federation of Belarus (BFF) when several festivals were organised in Minsk and other regions of the country. This has helped to enlarge the family of grassroots football instructors in Belarus.



Michel Platini with a group of young footballers



The youth tournament participants, happy and proud

Official festivities

The celebrations continued on 4 October when guests from UEFA, FIFA and various European associations paid a visit to Minsk and took part in the official festivities. The UEFA president, Michel Platini, and the BFF president, Sergei Roumas, buried a time capsule containing a message to future generations in the foundations of the training centre that will be built over the course of the next three years for the national football teams of Belarus.

Welcoming all the guests to Minsk, Sergei Roumas said: "Many generations of football players dreamed about this centre. Finally their dream is coming true. The construction has been divided into two stages. First, two pitches with artificial grass and heating and one natural pitch will be built. Then will come the turn of the centre itself, with all the facilities it requires – hotel, gym, saunas, swimming pool, interior garden, medical facilities, etc. I'm convinced that this centre will make a huge contribution to the further development of our football." Afterwards, the presidents of UEFA and the BFF presented awards to the winners of a youth tournament organised to mark the occasion. The youngsters were very excited to receive certificates and balls from Michel Platini, a legend in world football, and the line for autographs and pictures was endless.

The festivities continued in the evening, with the guests all invited to an official reception put on by the BFF. ●

Yulia Zenkovich

Albania
www.fshf.org

Albanian football goes online

Following a recent initiative by the Football Association of Albania (AFA), COMET – a tried-and-tested online competition management system – is now operational in the administration. The system has already significantly improved all activities associated with data processing, statistics and information on each and every match in all categories and competitions organised and run by the AFA.

More specifically, the system is used to register data on players, coaches and match officials, i.e. everyone involved in each match. The match calendars in all championship categories and statistics on the players and teams involved are also recorded in detail.

Another possibility the system has created is for referees, delegates and



Training sessions are being organised to introduce users to the new system

match observers to complete their usual match reports and minutes directly online, making the documentation process for each match very quick and easy, as well as dramatically increasing the efficiency of information collection at all levels of Albanian football.

The system has been officially operational since 15 August, with a second implementation phase still to come. In the first phase, reports and statistics on all championships, matches, players, etc. have been put online. In the second phase, access will be extended to all the clubs, which will also enter their details online, in real time, meaning they no longer have to contact the AFA directly.

All this has been made possible thanks to cooperation between the German-Croatian company Analyticom, which developed the software, and the AFA match operations department. Several training sessions and seminars with football officials, match delegates, observers and referees have already been organised.

● Gazmend Malo

Bosnia and Herzegovina
www.nfsbih.ba

Congratulations to the normalisation committee

At the end of September, the Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NFSBiH) received a visit from a joint FIFA-UEFA delegation headed by Thierry Regenass and Theodore Theodoridis, directors of FIFA and UEFA's respective national association divisions. Meetings and interviews were held with members of the normalisation committee, as well as the ambassador for football in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Duško Bajević.

These meetings covered numerous topics but most importantly were an opportunity to conduct an open and meaningful discussion about the current situation at the NFSBiH, the activities of the normalisation committee, the implementation of the statutes of both entities, as well as of their respective members (regional associations), in compliance with the new NFSBiH statutes, and the financial situation and reorganisation of the NFSBiH administration.

The FIFA-UEFA delegation thanked the normalisation committee and congratulated it on the intensive work undertaken and the positive changes seen. It also highlighted the committee's commitment to fulfilling its mission as set down by the FIFA Executive Committee.

The FIFA and UEFA representatives stressed that they expected further progressive cuts and more action in terms of financial consolidation and reorganisation of the administration, while reiterating that FIFA and UEFA fully supported the work of the normalisation committee.

In other news, Bosnia and Herzegovina recently hosted the matches in Group 10 in the first qualifying round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship, with matches played at the stadiums of Grbavica and SC Slavija, both in Sarajevo. Spain dominated with three convincing victories, finishing ahead of Switzerland and the young hopefuls of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who took third place after losing against Spain (9-0) and Switzerland (7-0) but beating Moldova (2-0).

KMF Leotar Trebinje, meanwhile, failed to win a place in the elite round of this season's UEFA Futsal Cup. In the main round, which was played in Latvia, the Bosnia and Herzegovina champions were

beaten 9-0 by favourites FC Barcelona. They then drew 3-3 with mini-tournament hosts FK Nikars Riga, despite leading 3-1 with just 70 seconds remaining. In a fight for second place against Hungarian champions Gyori ETO FC, they lost 7-5 to take third in the group. All in all, Leotar's performance in the main round was a great success for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

● Fuad Krvavac



Spain v Switzerland in the women's U19 mini-tournament hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both won a place in the second qualifying round.

Cyprus
www.cfa.com.cy

New referee committee chairman

The Cyprus Football Association (CFA) is constantly looking to improve and progress has recently been made in the field of refereeing with the arrival of Hans Reijgwart. The former international Dutch referee and current UEFA referee observer is the newly appointed chairman of the CFA's referee committee.



From left to right: Costakis Koutsokoumnis, president of the CFA, Hans Reijgwart, member of the UEFA Referees Committee, and George Koumas, first vice-president of the CFA

Following his appointment, announced on 14 September, Reijgwart will re-examine all areas of the refereeing structure in Cyprus.

Moreover, the CFA has decided to create and implement a national football development scheme that will place an emphasis on the clubs' youth academies, establishing for them a common football development plan under the umbrella of the CFA, as seen elsewhere in highly developed footballing countries in Europe.

UEFA's assistance has already been requested via the European governing body's technical director, Andy Roxburgh,

and UEFA Jira Panel member Howard Wilkinson.

September was an important month for the CFA, with UEFA's strategy meeting with the presidents and general secretaries of all 53 member associations taking place in Limassol.

This two-day seminar was followed by a UEFA Executive Committee meeting. In the press conference that rounded off the week's meetings, the local media had the chance to put questions on European football to the UEFA president, Michel Platini.

● *Kyriakos Giorgallis*



Women's team celebrate centennial

On 22 October, the Estonian women's national team played their 100th official match when they met neighbouring Finland in a UEFA Women's EURO qualifier in Vantaa.



A star of Estonian women's football, Anastassia Morkovkina, looks set to beat her Serbian opponent to the ball as team-mate Pille Raadik looks on

Estonian women's football kicked off internationally on 19 August 1994. In their first ever match, the national team lost against Lithuania 3-0. Their first goal came in their sixth match, in 1996, when Aire Lepik scored a consolation goal in their 2-1 defeat against Lithuania in a Baltic Cup match.

The team's first draw was also in 1996, in a goalless Baltic Cup clash with Latvia. It took until their 16th official match, in 1997, for Estonia to record their first win, beating Turkey 5-1 in an international friendly.

By the end of 2002, the Estonian women's team had played 41 matches and recorded only 3 wins and 2 draws. Between 2003 and 2011, however, Estonia took 24 wins and 7 draws from 57 matches. Since 2009 they have recorded 11 wins in 22 matches.

Anastassia Morkovkina is the country's most capped female player, having represented the nation in 71 matches and scored 37 goals. Altogether, 93 players have played on the national team.

"Women's football in Estonia is still young and we are developing every day," says the Estonian Football Association's general secretary, Tõnu Sirel. "Our national teams are playing regularly at women's and also at youth level, and some players have managed to go abroad to pursue professional careers, which is important in showing the way for youngsters. Women coaches, referees and officials are also an important part of this development. We very much appreciate UEFA's initiatives in support of women's football as it is considered the fastest growing part of our sport." ● *Mihkel Uiboleht*



Respect FC goes east

Japan is not a country that most people would associate with a lack of respect. Nevertheless, The FA received an invitation at the start of September to assist the Japanese FA (JFA) with the launch of Respect FC Japan, a version of an initiative The FA introduced in January 2011 to create a club – Respect FC – that everyone concerned with protecting the good of the game can support. A website – www.respectfootballclub.com – provides a virtual club house and a place for people to pledge support, share, comment and debate on the issues surrounding respect. The website has attracted 20,000 pledges and allowed The FA to build a movement of Respect FC supporters, arming them with the information and unity they need to actually combat disrespect in football.

The FA's Respect FC was in response to problems in the game, whereas the JFA's initiative is prompted by a determination to maintain the good behaviour that characterises Japanese football. As proof of this, The FA's respect manager, Dermot Collins, was

invited to attend the Japan v North Korea FIFA qualifier, which was marked by unstinting positive and vocal support by the home fans throughout the game. At the end of a hard-fought 1-0 victory, the Blue Samurai then spent 20 minutes walking round the pitch thanking the fans for their support.

The launch of Respect FC Japan the next day was accompanied by messages of support from the manager of the national men's team, Alberto Zaccheroni, the men's team captain, Makoto Hasebe, and the women's captain, Homare Sawa, who has gained superstar status following the team's recent World Cup triumph. At the launch the JFA announced the introduction of a green card in youth football that can be shown by the referee when conspicuous fair play is demonstrated by a team or individual. Dermot Collins was also asked to talk to the coaches of the J.League sides as well as coaches from other Olympic sports about the English experience of respect.

Respect FC Japan can be found at www.respectfc.jp

● *Dermot Collins*



Japan v North Korea, a lesson in respect



France
www.fff.fr

French Cup for the whole of France

With 7,422 teams competing and €8,529,000 earmarked for distribution to the clubs in 2011/12, the French Cup is still greatly admired and coveted by amateur and professional clubs alike. For this 95th edition, the French Football Federation has decided to highlight the exploits of the "minnows" by inviting the lowest ranked club still in the competition in the round of 64 (i.e. lowest ranked in the league hierarchy, professional and amateur leagues combined) to wear a badge for as long as it remains in the competition designating it as the "Petit



A crest for the winners of the French Cup

Poucet" (or Tom Thumb) of the French Cup.

Furthermore, the team designated the Tom Thumb of the 2011/12 French Cup will get a similar badge to wear the following season, the only difference being the additional label "2011/12 edition".

Another innovation is that, from now on, the winners of the French Cup will be able to mention their title on their shirts. Like the logo worn by the French Ligue 1 champions, the star worn by the world champions in each age category and other symbols that identify champions, the cup winners will wear a badge that identifies and honours them as such. LOSC

Lille Métropole, who beat Paris Saint-Germain FC in the final of the 2010/11 edition (1-0), will be the first club to wear the winner's badge on their shirts, but only during their matches in the French Cup, which they will enter in the round of 64.

- The 2010/11 French Cup in figures:
- 28,600 shirts provided last season to 1,200 clubs, from the fourth round to the final
 - 16 shirts given to each club between the fourth and eighth rounds
 - 16 balls donated for each match from the round of 64 onwards
 - 13,300 balls donated
 - 8,754 matches organised
 - 133,420 players involved.

● Yann Perrin



Hungary
www.mlsz.hu

Promising national team performance

Sándor Egervári's national team have not yet completed their UEFA EURO 2012 qualifying campaign, but their quest for a place in Ukraine/Poland looked up as they reached joint second place in Group E, alongside Sweden and behind the Netherlands (before their home match against Finland on 11 October) and, mathematically, they cannot drop below third. This is already an achievement as the team was seeded in pool four before the qualifying competition got under way.

They have also achieved Hungary's best position yet (since 1993) in the FIFA world rankings, having made it to 27th place. To achieve this Hungary had to beat Sweden at the Ferenc Puskás Stadium in September, Sweden being a team that Hungary has been famously unable to beat in the last couple of years despite relatively frequent meetings. The final score last month was 2-1 thanks to goals by Imre Szabics and Gergely



The president of the Hungarian Football Federation, Sándor Csányi, presents an award marking József Bozsik's 100 caps to his son, Péter

and grandson of József Bozsik in recognition of his 101 caps for the Hungarian national team.

Four days later Hungary also beat Moldova away to come level on points with Sweden in their EURO 2012 qualifying group.

In the meantime the head coach has reason to be optimistic about the national team's long-term future as the U17 team led by former international midfielder István Pisont topped their European U17 Championship qualifying group on home soil

with a spectacular 100% winning streak and an 11-3 goal difference in Telki.

● Márton Dinnyés



Liechtenstein
www.lfv.li

One Day, One Goal

In cooperation with the Benefactum initiative, former national team player Andreas Gerster and FC Vaduz, the Liechtenstein Football Association for the second time organised a football match for peace on the International Day of Peace. Just like last year, on 21 September people of all cultures and nationalities, athletes from the Liechtenstein Special Olympics team, representatives of all sorts of clubs and organisations in the principality, as well as former and active footballers, came together for the friendly game.

The organisers were once again delighted with the all-round success of the event, which



A friendly match for peace

sent a clear message of peace, tolerance, integration and unity. The event is a result both of the United Nations' resolution to establish 21 September as the International Day of Peace, and of the One Day, One Goal initiative. Created in 2008 by Peace One Day and Puma AG, One Day, One

Goal is all about intercultural cooperation and peace.

All sorts of campaigns and events are organised under the One Day, One Goal banner to spread the message of peace and bring the concepts of intercultural cooperation and peace alive.

● Anton Banzer



Malta

www.mfa.com.mt

Seminar for top referees

Organised by the Malta FA's referee committee, seminars to improve refereeing knowledge are a common feature on the agendas of Maltese match officials at this time of year. The latest was a three-day seminar for elite match officials and category one referees.

Sessions were held on various topics, with the first two conducted by Alan Snoddy, UEFA referee instructor, and Detelin Baiztaliev, senior lecturer from the Bulgarian FA.

Other speakers included Adrian D. Casha (MFA director of refereeing), Charles Agius (MFA referee committee chairman), Tom A. Restall and Victor Mintoff (referee instructors), and Stephen Azzopardi (UEFA Pro-licence coach). Also addressing attendees were sports psychologist Adele Muscat and Marika Micallef, a specialist in fitness and health-care.

During the seminar the referees were given group work exercises followed by discus-



D. Aquilina

Malta's top referees brush up on their skills

sions on the several presentations. They also underwent FIFA fitness tests.

There were 28 participants in this three-day seminar, including young referees enrolled in the Malta FA's talents and mentors programme. The event was brought to a

close by the association's president, Norman Darmanin Demajo, who praised the referee committee's latest initiative and stressed that such seminars were vital to the continued improvement of refereeing standards in Malta.

● Alex Vella



Moldova

www.fmf.md

National coaching courses

The FA of Moldova is continuing its work to improve the level of local coaching in the country. Recently, at the CSCT Buiucani stadium in Chisinau, the association launched its 16th UEFA C-licence course.



The instructors and C-licence students

The participants are 23 coaches involved in youth football all over the country. The opening ceremony was attended by Nicolae Cebotari, the general secretary of the FA of Moldova, who made a welcome speech. The lecturers on the course are Gennady Scurtul (technical director of the FA of Moldova), Alexander Viblov (director of the federal coaching academy), Svetlana Ceban (assistant to the technical director), Iana Pogarevici and Natalia Ceban (both Open Fun Football School instructors), and Sergey Clascenco (head coach of the Moldovan U19 national team). All course participants must complete theoretical and practical sessions, participate in group discussions and sit exams at the end.

● Victor Daghi



Netherlands

www.knvb.nl

FA honours former players for services to football

Michael van Praag, president of the Dutch FA (KNVB), honoured five former stars of Dutch football in Noordwijk on 5 October. Edwin van der Sar (130 caps), Frank de Boer (112), Giovanni van Bronckhorst (106) and Phillip Cocu (101) received the football association's knighthood as the only players to have ever reached the landmark of having played 100 international matches.

Ruud Gullit (66 caps) received the honour for his extraordinary contribution to the Belgian-Dutch attempt to host the FIFA 2018 World Cup. As president of The Holland-Belgium Bid, Gullit travelled the world to gain support for the bid. Eventually his efforts proved in vain.

In his speech, Michael van Praag praised all five stars for their great contributions to Dutch football in the Netherlands as well as abroad. All of them played for the biggest

clubs in Europe and won numerous awards, with their teams and individually. The KNVB awards ceremony took place during the Dutch national team's training camp in Noordwijk and was attended by the full current squad and staff.

Van Praag added that he was proud that the five stars continued to put their stamp on Dutch football. Frank de Boer won the national championship with Ajax only five months after joining them as head coach, van Bronckhorst (Feyenoord) and Cocu (PSV) work as assistant coaches, and Gullit and Van der Sar appear regularly as TV commentators.

The five players join the likes of Hans van Breukelen, Johan Cruyff, Wim van Hanegem, Ronald Koeman and Frank Rijkaard, all previous recipients of the Dutch FA's knighthood.

● Rob de Leede



KNVB

The five recipients (from left to right): Giovanni van Bronckhorst, Phillip Cocu, Ruud Gullit, Frank de Boer and Edwin van der Sar

Northern Ireland
www.irishfa.com

New League Cup sponsor

The new sponsor of the Northern Ireland League Cup is the soft drinks company IRN-BRU. In a two-year deal worth in the region of £140,000, the competition will now be named the IRN-BRU League Cup.

Hugh Wade, chairman of the Premiership Management Committee, said: "This is fantastic for the League Cup and I am delighted to welcome our new sponsor into our domestic game.

"Sponsorship is vital for local football and with the current economic situation I would like to extend huge credit to IRN-BRU for putting this level of investment into the League Cup."

Martin Steele, IRN-BRU senior brand manager, added: "IRN-BRU is proud to be the new sponsor of the League Cup. We have a long

and established heritage working in football and we are delighted to extend this involvement to the Irish FA.

"We know that the competition is exciting and are looking forward to bringing our unique brand style and marketing activities to fans and clubs across the length and breadth of the country."

● Graeme Beggs



Martin Steele (right) and Hugh Wade celebrate the new partnership

Republic of Ireland
www.fai.ie

Title sponsor for women's national league

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has announced Bus Éireann, Ireland's national coach and bus service, as the title sponsor of the women's national league.

Bus Éireann are delighted to be involved in supporting the development of women's football, and through this title sponsorship look forward to being involved in the long-term growth of the women's national league.

Since the launch of the FAI's women's development plan in 2006 the number of registered female players has doubled, coaching standards have improved nationwide, inter-

national rankings have increased at all age levels, a comprehensive emerging talent programme has been rolled out, and the number of women's leagues operating throughout the country has reached 31. The women's national league is a cornerstone of the women's development plan, the aim of which is to nurture and develop talent, taking the game to a whole new level.

The league, comprising seven clubs, will kick off in November. The seven clubs who have been invited to compete are Bray Wanderers/St Josephs, Castlebar Celtic FC, Cork Women's FC, Peamount United, Raheny United, Shamrock Rovers and Wexford Youths Women's AFC.

● Fran Whearty



Sue Ronan, Ireland's women's national team coach, with two of her players, Dora Gorman (left) and Ciara Grant, in front of their new team bus

Romania
www.ffr.ro

Dan Cristea has passed away

During the night of 18/19 September, the head of the football history and statistics committee of the Romanian FA, Dan Cristea, passed away at just 57, after a long illness.

Dan Cristea was a remarkable member of the international department who had been active in football for the last 32 years, first at FC Corvinul Hunedoara (1979-83), where he even served as president for one year, and afterwards at the Romanian FA.

Besides his day-to-day work, Dan Cristea was the man responsible for documenting Romanian football's history. Thanks to him, a Romanian football yearbook has been published every year for over a decade. On top of that, thanks to his incredible passion for football and history (he graduated from the history and philosophy college of Bucharest University), to mark the Romanian FC's centenary two years ago he helped produce a fantastic work entitled The History of Romanian Football.

Dan Cristea also instigated a project to create a museum of Romanian football at the Romanian FA's national football centre in Mogosoia. It was his big dream and we are very sad he will not see the result of his great efforts.

● Paul Zaharia



Dan Cristea

Sweden
www.svenskfotboll.se

Saving money and the environment

The energy company E.ON and the Football Association of Sweden have struck up a successful partnership to help local clubs save money and help the environment.



Regulating the hot water used in showers could save valuable money

About a third of the operating costs of an amateur club in the countryside can be accounted for by energy consumption – from floodlights to hot water for the showers. Through this project, clubs are being offered advice on how to use less energy and make their facilities more energy efficient.

A fund to help finance improvements has also been set up, with 88 grassroots clubs so far having been granted up to 25,000 Swedish krona each to help make "green" improvements to their facilities.

● Andreas Nilsson



Switzerland

www.football.ch

Annual get-together for former internationals



The ex-internationals at the home of FC Luzern

For years the Swiss Football Association (SFV-ASF) has organised an annual day trip for its former national team players. It is a hugely popular tradition and a great opportunity for ex-internationals to get together and share stories and experiences.

This year, the association's president, Peter Gilliéron, and general secretary, Alex Miescher, invited the former internationals to Lucerne.

The group sailed from Lucerne to Brunner on the Stadt Luzern steamboat, following in the illustrious footsteps of Queen Elizabeth II, among others. Built in 1928 and with a capacity of 1,200, the Stadt Luzern is both the newest and the largest steamboat on Lake Lucerne. Over wine and canapés, the ex-internationals soon started sharing stories and reminiscing, with old-timers such as Ely Tacchella and Hansruedi Fuhrer, both of whom competed on the world stage back in the 60s (World Cups in England and, in Tacchella's case, Chile too), instantly hitting it off with more recent national team retirees such as Franco di Jorio, Stefan Wolf and Marc Hodel.

After two hours on board the Stadt Luzern, the players were met in Brunner by the national team bus, which drove them back to Lucerne, to the new home of FC Luzern, which opened earlier this year.

Kudi Müller, an ex-international who also made a name for himself at FC Luzern, showed the rest of the party around the magnificent new stadium, sharing with them some interesting and amusing anecdotes about the construction process and some of the set-backs encountered along the way. The former Switzerland striker also took the opportunity to remind his audience of the club's latest achievements in the Swiss Super League, unable to hide his pride in "his" team's success.

After a speech by president Peter Gilliéron, the group continued their discussions over dinner – the perfect end to the perfect day. Appetites sated and spirits high, the former stars of Switzerland's national team bid one another farewell.

● Pierre Benoit



Turkey

www.tff.org

Free match tickets for women and children

The executive committee of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) decided in September that women and under-16s should



Women and children fill Turkey's stadiums

be able to follow the 2011/12 Turkish Super League live and free of charge.

The TFF will pay the clubs for the tickets for the rest of the season. This project, which is the first of its kind in Turkish football, started in week five of the Super League. It has been introduced to reduce violence in the stadiums and increase spectator figures. Each club has allocated a certain number of tickets to the project and communicated its available capacity to the TFF.

In addition, and also during the 2011/12 season, matches in any league that, due to a disciplinary decision of the TFF, must be played behind closed doors will exceptionally be open, and free of charge, to women and under-12s (provided the children are accompanied by their mothers).

● TFF media relations department



Ukraine

www.ffu.org.ua

Leather ball and its heroes

On 14/15 September Ukraine held the final tournament of the annual children's Leather Ball football competition, organised by the amateur football association of Ukraine with the help of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU). This year first place was claimed by the team from Lviv secondary school No. 73.

In accordance with the tournament regulations, the winners of eight zonal groups entered the final tournament, which took place in Kyiv on the fields of the national training complex named after first FFU president, Viktor Bannikov. For the group stage these eight teams were divided into two groups of four. The group winners contested the final, while the two second-placed teams competed for bronze medals.



Certificates and prizes for the Leather Ball participants

Lviv secondary school No. 73 faced Oleksandriia Collegium in the final on Thursday 15 September. Lviv were already two goals ahead before the break thanks to a double by Sergii Valenko. Their opponents pulled one back in the second half, but then conceded again at the very end to finish 3-1 down. In the bronze-medal match Volodymyr-Volynskii boarding school beat Konotop secondary school No. 5 1-0.

After the tournament all participants were awarded different prizes, including balls and vouchers for football boots courtesy of the Football Federation of Ukraine, the amateur football association of Ukraine, Coca-Cola Beverages Ukraine and the Leather Ball club, represented by its president and renowned former USSR and Dynamo Kyiv player Andrii Biba. The best youth teams were also awarded cups and medals. In addition, the winners have been invited to watch Ukraine play Germany in the first match at the newly renovated Olympic Stadium in Kyiv.

● Andriy Zaytsev

Cookbook in ten languages

Eat for Goals!, the children's cookbook first published in 2008 by UEFA, in conjunction with the World Heart Federation and with the support of the European Commission, will soon be available in ten languages.



After the recent launch of a second Spanish edition, this time in paperback and featuring new players such as David Villa, Fernando Torres and Sergio Ramos, three additional language versions are now in the pipeline.

Shortly the book will be available in Russian, with a special contribution by Andrey Arshavin as ambassador of the Russian edition.

Since the book was first launched in September 2008, *Eat for Goals!* has been translated into ten languages – Dutch, English, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian – and the list of renowned male and female football players that have contributed healthy food advice and recipes has grown to 26.

Healthy lifestyle

Eat for Goals! is aimed at children aged 5 to 11 who love football and food. Through the book, the message that a healthy lifestyle is also based on healthy food is conveyed by a multicultural group of 13 internationally renowned male and female football players who, as children's role models, share what they love to eat and give recipes for their favourite dishes.

A detailed list of the ingredients and step-by-step instructions for preparing each of the 13 dishes makes it easy for even less-experienced young cooks to make delicious, healthy meals. And for those who want to know more about the relationship between a balanced, healthy diet and performance, which is crucial to footballers, the book gives nutritional values per portion and plenty of food tips.

UEFA, as part of its ongoing football and social responsibility efforts, identified the *Eat for Goals!* initiative as a good way to talk to a large and young public about the importance of good food and daily exercise by bringing together footballers' favourite recipes. ●



Furthermore, Portugal and Brazil are about to see the launch of a Portuguese version, for which a special contribution has been made by none other than Cristiano Ronaldo. Finally, and in time for the fast-approaching UEFA EURO 2012, a Ukrainian version featuring Anatoliy Tymoshchuk and Andriy Shevchenko is being produced.

Ordering information

The new language versions mentioned above can be purchased on the following websites:

Portuguese: livraria.vidaeconomica.pt

Russian: www.amphora.ru

Spanish: www.ra-ma.es

Ukrainian: publish.knig.net

Orders can also be placed via www.UEFA.com or the World Heart Federation's website, www.worldheart.org.

Buying *Eat for Goals!* helps many youngsters, as UEFA will donate €1 from the sale of each book in support of the World Heart Federation's programmes encouraging children to be physically active.

Birthdays

Horst R. Schmidt (Germany), member of the Circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 70th birthday on 19 November. Meanwhile, the following are all celebrating their 60th birthdays: **Francesco Bianchi** (Switzerland), referee observer, on 2 November; **Prof. Andrea Ferretti** (Italy), member of the Medical Committee, on 4 November; **Dumitru Mihalach** (Romania), match delegate, on 18 November; and **Zbigniew Przesmycki** (Poland), referee observer, on 26 November. Last but not least, reaching the 50 mark are **Stefan Hans** (Germany) and **Maciej Stanczuk** (Poland), both members of the Administrative Expert Panel and both born on 14 November, and **Jyrki Filppu** (Finland), match delegate, who celebrates his 50th on 22 November. UEFA also wishes many happy returns for November to:

James McCluskey (Scotland, 1.11)
Marc Batta (France, 1.11)
Josef Krula (Czech Republic, 1.11)
György Szilagy (Hungary, 2.11)
Gero Bisanz (Germany, 3.11)
Micky Zager (Israel, 4.11)
Lennart Johansson (Sweden, 5.11)
Fernand Meese (Belgium, 5.11)
Georgi Popov (Bulgaria, 5.11)
Mircea Pascu (Romania, 6.11)
Dragan Djordjevic (Serbia, 6.11)
Nadezhda Ulyanovskaya (Russia, 6.11)
Peter Gardiner (Scotland, 7.11)
Vladimir Badura (Slovakia, 7.11)
Sergio Di Cesare (Italy, 8.11)
Haris Loizides (Cyprus, 8.11)
Michele Uva (Italy, 8.11)
Rudolf Zavr (Slovenia, 9.11)
Jorge Perez Arias (Spain, 9.11)
Willi Hink (Germany, 9.11)
Thomas Hollerer (Austria, 9.11)
Marc Van Geersom (Belgium, 10.11)
Frank Paauw (Netherlands, 10.11)
Emilio Garcia Silvero (Spain, 10.11)
Uno Tutk (Estonia, 11.11)
Muharem Zihni Aksoy (Turkey, 11.11)
Mehmet Murat Ilgaz (Turkey, 11.11)
Antonio Silva Pereira (Portugal, 12.11)
Milan Spirkoski (FYR Macedonia, 12.11)
Howard Wilkinson (England, 13.11)
Peter Fröjdfeldt (Sweden, 14.11)
Jean Lemmer (Luxembourg, 15.11)
Otto Demuth (Austria, 16.11)
Wolf-Günter Wiesel (Germany, 16.11)
Susan Ann Hough (England, 16.11)
Jan Fasung (Slovakia, 17.11)
Claudio Circhetta (Switzerland, 18.11)
Stanislaw Michal Pilkowski (Poland, 18.11)
Knarik Abelyan (Armenia, 18.11)
Dr Jacques Liénard (France, 19.11)
Petr Fousek (Czech Republic, 19.11)
Jean-Louis Piette (France, 20.11)
Paul-Heinz Lenhart (Germany, 22.11)
Mamuka Kvaratskhelia (Georgia, 22.11)
Nikolay Pisarev (Russia, 23.11)
George Koumas (Cyprus, 24.11)
Jonas Braga (Lithuania, 25.11)
Borislav Popov (Bulgaria, 26.11)
Styrbjörn Oskarsson (Finland, 26.11)
Marcos Del Cuadro (Switzerland, 26.11)
Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus, 28.11)
Ante Vucemilovic-Simunovic (Croatia, 28.11)
Andrey Medintsev (Bulgaria, 28.11)
Tomaz Ranc (Slovenia, 28.11)
Marko Ilesic (Slovenia, 29.11)
James Finnegan (Republic of Ireland, 29.11)
Alojzije Supraha (Croatia, 29.11)
Wolfgang Niersbach (Germany, 30.11)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

2.11.2011, Nyon
 National Associations Committee
3.11.2011, Nyon
 Legal Committee
4.11.2011, Nyon
 Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee
7.11.2011, Nyon
 Jira Panel
8.11.2011, Nyon
 Grassroots Football Panel
10.11.2011, Nyon
 Club Licensing Committee
15.11.2011, Nyon
 Draws for the 2011/12 second qualifying rounds and the 2012/13 first qualifying rounds of the European Women's U19 and U17 Championships
16.11.2011, Nyon
 National Team Competitions Committee
17.11.2011, Nyon
 Draws for the quarter- and semi-finals of the UEFA Women's Champions League
18.11.2011, Nyon
 Finance Committee
 Development and Technical Assistance Committee
21.11.2011, Nyon
 Women's Football Committee
22.11.2011, Nyon
 Medical Committee
 Football Committee
23.11.2011, Nyon
 Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
 Marketing Advisory Committee
24.11.2011, Nyon
 HatTrick Committee
 Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee
25.11.2011, Nyon
 Stadium and Security Committee
29.11.2011, Nyon
 Draws for the 2011/12 elite rounds and the 2012/13 qualifying rounds of the European U19 and U17 Championships

Competitions

1/2.11.2011
 UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 4)
2/3.11.2011
 UEFA Women's Champions League: round of 16 (first legs)
3.11.2011
 UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 4)
9/10.11.2011
 UEFA Women's Champions League: round of 16 (return legs)
11/12.11.2011
 European Football Championship: play-off matches (first legs)
12-20.11.2011
 UEFA Futsal Cup: elite round
15.11.2011
 European Football Championship: play-off matches (return legs)
22/23.11.2011
 UEFA Champions League: group matches (matchday 5)
30.11/1.12.2011
 UEFA Europa League: group matches (matchday 5)

Notices

- Costakis Koutsokoumnis was re-elected as president of the Cyprus Football Association in August.
- Alain Christnacht was appointed chief executive of the French Football Federation on 1 September.
- There have been some changes within the UEFA committees and disciplinary bodies:
 - Peter Gilliéron (Switzerland) is the new deputy chairman of the Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee.
 - Bernard Barbet (France) has joined the HatTrick Committee.
 - Tomaz Ranc has replaced fellow Slovenian Drago Kos on the Media Committee.
 - Anders Eggen has replaced fellow Norwegian Paul Glomsaker on the National Associations Committee.
 - Josef Geisler has replaced fellow Austrian Gerhard Kapl, who died in July, as a disciplinary inspector.
 - Gheorghe Popescu has replaced fellow Romanian Ioan Angelo Lupescu on the Control and Disciplinary Body.



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RESPECT

The Opponent



RESPECT

Diversity



RESPECT

The Game