



Union des associations européennes de football



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Medien-Mitteilung

3rd “Unite Against Racism” conference in Warsaw

UEFA, FIFPro and FARE join forces in the fight against racism

UEFA and players' union FIFPro are teaming up with the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network to stage the third “Unite Against Racism” conference, taking place at the Hilton Hotel & Convention Centre in Warsaw, Poland, on 3 and 4 March 2009.

Hosted by the Polish Football Association, the event witnesses a gathering of 250 delegates representing associations, leagues, clubs, players, non-governmental organisations, the media and the world of politics.

The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of racism and discrimination and propose positive and practical solutions for addressing these problems in the game and in society. The event will also share examples of good practice in clubs, NGOs and supporters' groups and as a platform to share experiences and new ideas.

Tackling racism and discrimination is an important social priority for UEFA and a range of initiatives have already been undertaken to identify problems, encourage action and ensure the right sanctions are imposed. Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE), UEFA's partner in this area, has developed the involvement of NGOs and fan groups across Europe, and many national football associations, clubs and players have taken up the challenge.

UEFA now wants to create an opportunity to review progress and renew its call for action. In particular, UEFA wants to record positive developments and in view of the UEFA EURO 2012™ look at the challenges facing the game in the east and what more the European football family can do.

This is the third conference of this kind have taken place, in London in 2003 and in Barcelona in 2006, with the football community – players, officials, coaches and fans – coming together to look at key issues in what has become a central campaign in the game.

UEFA, FIFPro and FARE have been partners for several years. The FARE movement brings together equality groups from across the continent, supporting them and helping create a united front against racism. UEFA, in addition to providing significant financial assistance, uses its leading competitions to give a platform to anti-racism activities and to promote respect for diversity.

UEFA operates a zero tolerance policy against racism and takes disciplinary measures against offenders, and together with the European Commission and the FARE network, launched an anti-racism television spot at the start of the current season to spearhead the ongoing campaign. Last summer, the UEFA EURO 2008™ championship also served to highlight the anti-racist movement, via the Unite Against Racism campaign and various activities including street football tournaments, an awareness scheme and the inclusion of local ethnic minorities.

Media are welcomed to cover the opening of the conference (3 March - 18.30 to 20.00), the plenary session (4 March - 09.00 to 10.30 and 15.30 to 18.00) as well as a press conference which will be held on 4 March at 12:30, at the Hilton Hotel & Convention Centre in Warsaw, Poland.

There will be a media working area, and applications for accreditation should be emailed to accreditations@uefa.ch, prior to Friday 27 February midday, mentioning UAR Conference in the subject header.

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