



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

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European football united to protect minors

Representatives of associations, clubs, leagues and players agree resolution

The meeting of the Professional Football Strategy Council today in Nyon focused mainly on two subjects: the protection of minors and financial fair play.

All four groups (associations, clubs, leagues, and players) agreed on the principle that there should be no international transfers of minors (under-18 players) either into Europe or within Europe.

A resolution for the protection of young players and encouragement of youth development was ratified by all four representatives' groups. The text of this resolution can be found attached.

As regards financial fair play in UEFA club competitions, the creation of a new club financial control body at UEFA level was discussed, with a view to ensure a more consistent application of the existing UEFA Club Licensing System.

Discussions were also held regarding what types of financial fair play measures could be implemented in the medium-to-long term in European football; ranging from tighter application of the existing licensing system through to stricter cost control mechanisms to ensure that clubs compete with their own means.

Following the meeting, the UEFA President, Michel Platini, said:

“The question of minors is above all a moral and ethical issue – we have a duty to take concrete steps to protect young players and training clubs.

“I am delighted that the key stakeholders of the European football family have a common view on this major subject and I welcome the signature of this important resolution.”

Attached: Resolution of the Professional Football Strategy Council + attendance list

Protection of young players and encouragement of youth development

Resolution of the Professional Football Strategy Council

With regard to the protection of young players and encouragement of youth development, the Professional Football Strategy Council agrees that no international transfers (or first registration of non-nationals) of players under 18 into Europe or within Europe should be permitted.

This means in particular that the third exception foreseen today in Article 19, paragraph 2 b), of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, and which relates only to the EU/EEA, should be reviewed in order to guarantee that the same system regarding transfer bans of under-18 year old players applies both within and outside Europe and that this system is strictly monitored.

Nyon, 9 March 2009

For and on behalf of ECA (European Club Association)
Joan Laporta, Vice-Chairman

For and on behalf of EPFL (Association of European Professional Football Leagues)
Sir David Richards, President

For and on behalf of FIFPro Division Europe
Philippe Piat, President

For and on behalf of UEFA
Michel Platini, President

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Note to editors:

The Professional Football Strategy Council is composed of elected representatives of the associations, clubs, leagues and players, and advises the UEFA Executive Committee on issues of strategic importance for European football. FIFA also participates as observer.

The meeting was attended by the following persons:

Representatives of the associations (UEFA)

Michel Platini (UEFA President)
Senes Erzik (Turkey)
Geoffrey Thompson (England)
Angel María Villar Llona (Spain)
Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany)

Representatives of the clubs (ECA)

Maarten Fontein (Netherlands)
Michele Centenaro (General Secretary)
Peter Kenyon (England)
Joan Laporta i Estruch (Spain)

Representatives of the leagues (EPFL)

José Luis Astiazaran (Spain)
Lex Gold (Scotland)
David Richards (England)
Frédéric Thiriez (France)
Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros (General Manager)

Representatives of the players (FIFPro Europe)

Gerardo González Movilla (Spain)
Leonardo Grosso (Italy)
Philippe Piat (France)
Theo van Seggelen (Secretary General)
Mick McGuire (England)

Representative of FIFA

Jérôme Valcke, General Secretary

UEFA Administration

David Taylor, General Secretary