



Union des associations européennes de football



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UEFA statement on Anders Frisk

UEFA delivers unconditional support for work of officials and asks for restraint

Following the announcement over the weekend that top international referee Anders Frisk is to retire following threats he has received, UEFA would like to publicly go on record as offering its unconditional support and solidarity to Anders Frisk and his family at this time.

UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, said:

“The news that Anders Frisk is to retire following threats is of course deeply shocking and disturbing. We offer our full and unconditional support and solidarity to Anders and, whatever decision he reaches, we strongly condemn anyone that has made these criminal threats.

“Top officials these days have to carry out a very tough job in a very highly pressurised environment and we give them our one hundred percent backing.”

UEFA CEO, Lars-Christer Olsson, commented:

“It is wholly unacceptable that a top international referee, someone who has officiated with great dignity and integrity at the highest end of the game, is pressured into retiring in this way. The officials that are appointed by UEFA for the UEFA Champions League matches are coming from a pool of the best referees in the world and all managers, coaches and players should support them and their decisions. At the same time, we must sanction anyone within the football family who makes inflammatory statements that could jeopardise the security of match officials and their families and brings the game into disrepute. We will not allow the slandering of match officials to become part of pre-match tactics.

“Managers, coaches and players have become role models for society, especially as far as young people are concerned. With fame also comes responsibility. Everyone involved in the game should therefore think twice before uttering provocative remarks that could be construed by others as inciting trouble.

“I have been in touch personally with Anders Frisk. His decision to retire is final and we must respect that. We have agreed to continue discussions on how to prevent this from happening in the future. Anders Frisk will share his experience with us and we will work together on solutions to help referees and other officials to strengthen their position which is absolutely essential for the future of the game.”

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