



Union des associations européennes de football

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Appointment of Polish football commissioner not recognised by FIFA and UEFA

FIFA and UEFA are surprised at the decision of Polish minister of sport Tomasz Lipiec to appoint a commissioner to head the Polish Football Association (PZPN) in a move that not only violates the principle of autonomy that applies throughout the sports movement but also undermines the steps taken by Polish government authorities through working group activities in conjunction with FIFA and UEFA to find solutions that are beneficial to the development of Polish football.

The PZPN executive committee remains the only body that FIFA and UEFA recognise in relation to all football matters in Poland.

In spite of several warnings from FIFA and UEFA, the Polish minister of sport suspended the PZPN's board of administration including president Michal Listkiewicz on 19 January and appointed the president of the Polish football league, Andrzej Rusko, as the new commissioner of the association in line with article 23 of national sports law, a provision that FIFA and UEFA have been contesting since 2005.

In addition, FIFA and UEFA support the decision passed by the PZPN's board of administration on Friday, 19 January 2007 to convene new elections on 31 March in order to bring the leadership of Polish football into line with the new statutes that the association implemented on 7 January.

In the coming days and weeks, FIFA and UEFA will determine what action to take in response to the Polish government's interference, which contravenes article 17 of the FIFA Statutes.