



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

Date: 15/01/2008

Communiqué aux médias

No. 004

Medien-Mitteilung

Victory for football as a whole

Historic meeting between FIFA, UEFA and several top European clubs

FIFA, UEFA and a number of top European clubs are pleased to announce that they today signed a letter of intent, which starts a new chapter in the relations between the governing bodies and the clubs. The development is very much in line with the sporting and political philosophy of FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and UEFA President Michel Platini, who seek to involve all key stakeholders in the decision-making processes of football and to find workable solutions within the football family itself. The European clubs share this philosophy.

Meeting at the Home of FIFA in Zurich, the representatives of the organisations present (cf. list at the end of this media release) agreed on the intention to regulate their future relationship with a number of actions. These are to include the planned evolution of the European Club Forum into the European Club Association (ECA), the formal signature of a memorandum of understanding with UEFA and subsequently the dissolution of the G-14 with the withdrawal of its claims in court. As part of the planned moves, UEFA and FIFA will enter into a series of commitments including financial contributions for player participation in European Championships and World Cups, subject to the approval of their respective bodies.

FIFA President Joseph Blatter hailed the meeting as a historic occasion and a turning point in modern football. "Something very special has happened today. The clubs, which are the basic cells of our game and fundamental to its thriving, are at last to become a part of the pyramidal football organisation. Today's letter of intent gives a big boost to football. We have reached this positive conclusion by taking care of the legitimate aspirations and requests of clubs to access the decision-making levels of international football."

Blatter's positive sentiments were echoed by his counterpart at UEFA, President Michel Platini: "The demands of the clubs to be heard and to be associated, also financially, are well-founded. The letter of intent signed today is not a political step, but a logical one."

Speaking on behalf of the clubs, Barcelona President Joan Laporta praised the outcome of the meeting, emphasising that "friendship and confidence is the basis for our game. I compliment the UEFA President on having implemented the change he promised when he came to office. It is a victory for all."

At a meeting of the European Club Forum on 21 January, UEFA will propose to the European clubs the intention to create a new body that will represent their interests at European level. This new club body - to be known as the European Club Association - will consist of more than 100 clubs across Europe, including representatives from every one of the 53 national associations of UEFA. The new body will be independent but recognised by UEFA through the above-mentioned memorandum of understanding.

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Meeting between FIFA – UEFA – CLUBS

15 January 2008
Home of FIFA
Zürich

List of Participants

Joseph S. BLATTER	FIFA	President
Jérôme VALCKE	FIFA	Secretary General
Markus KATTNER	FIFA	Deputy Secretary General
Marco VILLIGER	FIFA	Legal Director
Jérôme CHAMPAGNE	FIFA	Director International Affairs
Andreas HERREN	FIFA	Director Communications a.i.
Michel PLATINI	UEFA	President
David TAYLOR	UEFA	General Secretary
Gianni INFANTINO	UEFA	Deputy General Secretary
Ramon CALDERON	Real Madrid CF	President
José Angel SANCHEZ	Real Madrid CF	Vice President
Joan LAPORTA	FC Barcelona	President
Raul SANLLEHI	FC Barcelona	Director
Adriano GALLIANI	AC Milan	Vice President
Umberto GANDINI	AC Milan	Director
Jean-Claude BLANC	Juventus FC	Chief Executive
Marino FACCIOLI	Olympique Lyonnais	Deputy General Director
Martin BAIN	Rangers FC	Chief Executive
John McCLELLAND	Rangers FC	Director
David GILL	Manchester United FC	Chief Executive
Peter KENYON	Chelsea FC	Chief Executive
Karl-Heinz RUMMENIGGE	FC Bayern Munich	President
Michael GERLINGER	FC Bayern Munich	Legal Director
John JAAKE	AFC Ajax	President
Marteen FONTEIN	AFC Ajax	Chief Executive
Jorge NUNO PINTO DA COSTA	FC Porto	President
Diogo Paiva BRANDAO	FC Porto	General Manager
Petros KOKKALIS	Olympiacos FC	Vice President
Theodoros GIANNIKOS	Olympiacos FC	International Affairs