



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

Date: 21/01/2008

Communiqué aux médias

No. 007

Medien-Mitteilung

New era in football begins with formation of European Club Association

Memorandum of Understanding signed between UEFA and ECA

A new era in football began today at the House of European Football in Nyon, Switzerland, where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the newly-formed European Club Association (ECA), representing the interests of clubs at European level and UEFA, the governing body of European football.

In opening the meeting today UEFA President Michel Platini said: "After being elected and confronting the problems in football I said that the game, that dialogue, and the exchange of ideas was the solution. I now count on you, football counts on you, UEFA counts on you, and the youth of today counts on you."

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, current chairman of the ECA, said: "Normally with agreements there are winners and losers but this time everyone is a winner. I must thank UEFA President Michel Platini for the speed with which these actions have been set in motion and without whom many of these solutions would not have been possible."

Following on from the joint FIFA-UEFA announcement of Tuesday 15 January, the creation today of the ECA thus paves the way for harmony to return to football between the governing bodies and the clubs. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding today means that UEFA recognises the ECA as the sole body representing the interests of clubs at European level and the ECA recognises UEFA as the governing body of football at European level, and FIFA as the governing body of football at worldwide level.

The ECA, as an independent autonomous body representing the European clubs, is drawn from all of UEFA's 53 member associations. The ECA shall in principle be composed of 103 clubs with the precise number of clubs from each member association established every two years at the end of the UEFA season on the basis of the then current UEFA ranking position of its member associations according to the following principle:

Association ranking position	Number of clubs
1-3	5
4-6	4
7-15	3
16-26	2
27-53	1

It was agreed that a transitional ECA Board* would represent the ECA and its 16 founding members** until the next general assembly meets at the end of the season, when elections for a new Executive Board will be held. The ECA Board will be composed of 11 members, plus the four representatives appointed by the Executive Board to the UEFA Professional Football Strategy Council. The ECA will also provide half of the members of the UEFA Club Competitions Committee.

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As part of the Memorandum of Understanding it was agreed to distribute every four years an amount from the UEFA European Football Championship to national associations for them to pass on to their clubs who have contributed to the successful staging of a UEFA EURO™. The target distribution amount for UEFA EURO 2008™ is €43.5 million and for UEFA EURO 2012™ €55 million (providing financial results are substantially similar to those of UEFA EURO 2008™). The payments shall be made on a “per day per player” basis.

The distribution amount for UEFA EURO 2008™ of €43.5 million is divided by the total number of days which gives a “per player per day” amount of approximately €4,000. For UEFA EURO 2012™ this is expected to be approximately €5,000.

As well as the direct financial benefits from UEFA EURO™ for the clubs, the Memorandum of Understanding also ensures that UEFA is set to schedule qualifying matches for the UEFA EURO™, whenever possible, in maximum groups of six.

In conclusion, UEFA President Michel Platini thanked those who worked at the heart of this historic agreement with the clubs: “I would like to place on record and express my sincere thanks to the FIFA President, Joseph Blatter and the FIFA General Secretary, Jérôme Valcke, as well as Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Adriano Galliani, Umberto Gandini, Joan Laporta, Peter Kenyon and Ramón Calderón.”

Note to Editors:

***Transitional ECA Board**

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Chair) – FY Bayern Munich
Joan Laporta (vice-Chair) – FC Barcelona
Umberto Gandini – AC Milan
Peter Kenyon – Chelsea FC
Marteen Fontein – AFC Ajax
Jean Michel Aulas – Olympique Lyonnais

**** ECA Founding Members**

Real Madrid CF
FC Barcelona
AC Milan
Juventus FC
Olympique Lyonnais
Rangers FC
Manchester United FC
Chelsea FC
FC Bayern Munich
AFC Ajax
FC Porto
Olympiacos FC
RSC Anderlecht
Birkirkara FC
NK Dynamo Zagreb
FC København