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C(2018) 876 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Decision

**adopting the Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the
Union of the European Football Associations (UEFA)**



**Arrangement for Cooperation
between
the European Commission
and
the Union of European Football Associations**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BASIS FOR COOPERATION

1.1. The European Commission (“EC”) and the Union of European Football Associations (“UEFA”), (together “the Sides”) share a common desire to promote the social values of sport and safeguard the principles of fairness and openness in sport, and football, in particular;

1.2 The Arrangement for Cooperation¹ concluded in 2014 helped to strengthen relations between the EC and UEFA based on cooperation in key policy areas. That Arrangement expired on 31 December 2017 and the Sides wish to renew and extend their cooperation and dialogue, with a focus on certain specific areas which are of mutual interest and relevance;

1.3. The Sides consider that the basis for their cooperation is the understanding that the Arrangement seeks to achieve the common objectives in accordance with the applicable Union Legislation;

THEREFORE, the Sides accept this new Arrangement for Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Arrangement").

2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives shared by the Sides are to:

- (a) promote values and principles common in Europe (such as non-discrimination, tolerance, cultural diversity, solidarity and gender equality) through initiatives such as UEFA EURO 2020 as a Europe-wide public event hosted across twelve different countries in Europe in order to mark the 60th anniversary of the European Football Championships. The Sides have the joint ambition to achieve a socially responsible and sustainable event leaving a positive legacy while at the same time addressing external risks and challenges such as cross-border travel, safety and security;
- (b) strengthen cooperation in matters of long-term interest to football and sport in Europe, such as the principles of good governance, and ensure the healthy evolution

¹ C(2014) 7378 final

of football at all levels with a focus on matters such as solidarity, integrity, fair competition and contractual stability;

- (c) improve the overall financial health of European football by strengthening the existing rules on 'Financial Fair Play'.

3. AREAS OF COOPERATION

3.1 UEFA EURO 2020

UEFA EURO 2020 for growth

3.1.1. It is desirable to exploit the full potential of UEFA EURO 2020 in terms of generating economic activity, raising social and cultural awareness, and promoting sustainable development in the host cities, regions and countries.

3.1.2. The Sides intend to encourage host cities, regions and countries to take advantage of the unique format of UEFA EURO 2020 in order to create high-quality tourism opportunities aimed at having positive impacts on the economy, image, skill development and employment at relevant levels, also taking into account the specific recommendations on major sport events².

3.1.3. UEFA EURO 2020 has the potential to portray a positive image of Europe and its common values, whilst at the same time celebrating its cultural diversity. This event presents an opportunity to bring European people together, in an atmosphere of optimism and camaraderie.

3.1.4. A stronger link between sport and sustainable development could be fostered, notably by following best practices in areas of recycling, eco-innovation and waste-management, as well as responsible and efficient use of resources, thus reducing any negative environmental impacts.

3.1.5. Consistent with the EU Education and Training 2020 strategy framework³, the Sides intend to look for joint initiatives aimed at improving the skills, competences and qualifications of young people involved in UEFA EURO 2020 to help support employability, innovation, entrepreneurship and growth. The Sides envisage to work together to promote the dual careers of athletes concept in the context of football involving national federations.

3.1.6. A closer cooperation between the Sides envisages the acknowledgment of the increasing significance of the role of coaches by society and raising coaches' own awareness of the importance of their role, the related opportunities and responsibilities, and encouraging further development of that role.

UEFA EURO 2020 for all European citizens

3.1.7. The Sides wish to promote and protect fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in order to tackle all forms of discrimination both on and off the field. For this they intend to work in cooperation with relevant NGOs and to conduct joint initiatives, building, for example, on the UEFA Respect, #EqualGame and Together #WePlayStrong campaigns.

3.1.8. The Sides share the goal of promoting volunteering to contribute to active citizenship and to facilitate the integration of citizens from different backgrounds. Within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps initiative, for example, volunteers will be able to participate in the programmes carried out at UEFA EURO 2020 venues.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetailDoc&id=23271&no=1>

³ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework_en

3.1.9. Inspired by the EC's #BeActive campaign, the Sides intend to continue collaboration in the context of the European Week of Sport, using football to promote healthy lifestyles.

3.1.10 The Sides intend to seek support to upgrade the existing infrastructure and the development of new, innovative, accessible and sustainable sports facilities across Europe as a means to promote public health, as well as social cohesion, inclusion, regional, rural and urban development.

3.2. Promoting a healthy regulatory framework for the long-term development of football

3.2.1. Good and responsible governance is a *sine qua non* for the autonomy and self-regulation of sport. The Sides share an ambition to promote **principles of good governance** in sport, such as accountability, democracy, inclusivity, integrity, participation and transparency. Furthermore, the Sides agree that the involvement of social partners in decision-making processes is part of good governance.

3.2.2. The maintenance of competitive balance is essential for the long-term healthy development of sport. The Commission takes notes of UEFA's efforts to protect and enhance competitive balance, via a broad range of appropriate and proportionate measures and after consultation with relevant parties.

3.2.3. The Sides are aware of the alleged concerns of some stakeholders regarding the current operation of the football transfer system, such as a general lack of transparency, excessive fees, hoarding of players, lack of investment in local talent, and other abusive or unethical practices. The two sides should endeavour to strengthen policies that would address these issues in order to achieve a system that meets the needs of European football whilst complying with EU legal standards.

3.2.4. The Sides note the "joint resolution on intermediaries/agents" adopted in the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Professional Football (November 2017) calling for a more rational and transparent system of regulation to address the many challenges associated with the activities of intermediaries/agents in Europe.

3.2.5. The health and human dignity of athletes must be protected from abusive and unethical practices, commercial or otherwise. It is important that arrangements concerning players, such as the so-called third-party ownership of the "economic rights" of players, do not threaten the integrity of sporting competition or undermine the relationship of trust and mutual respect that should exist in any relationship of employment and that all appropriate measures must be taken to fight against any form of "human trafficking" in sport, especially with regard to minors.

3.2.6. The Sides acknowledge that training and development of players throughout Europe needs to be further encouraged, including but not limited to ensuring that small and medium-sized clubs have the necessary financial and sporting incentives to invest in such training and development.

3.2.7. Policies designed to increase financial transparency, stability and responsible management, such as the Financial Fair Play initiative, are key to promote good corporate governance via self-regulation.

3.2.8. The Sides re-affirm their support for financial solidarity mechanisms within sport which help to establish and reinforce the necessary link between professional and amateur sport, as well as financing less profitable competitions which are nonetheless important for long-term development.

3.2.9. A closer co-operation between different stakeholders involved in the fight against threats to football such as violence, match-fixing and doping is necessary. This requires a clear legal framework and coordinated efforts between football bodies and public authorities at all levels. To this end, it is necessary to build on the progress already achieved on the basis of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions⁴.

3.2.10. The Sides share the ambition to prevent that the football sector is used for money laundering purposes. UEFA notes the Commission's efforts to identify and assess risks relating to money laundering in the European Union⁵ and will engage in this process to help the Commission to assess money laundering risks in the football sector.

3.2.11. The Sides are aware of the crucial role whistle-blowers can play when it comes to fighting money laundering, fraud, aggressive tax planning or corruption, or otherwise shedding light on hidden behaviours that may exist in the football sector.⁶ In this light, the Sides affirm their support for the establishment of effective mechanisms to encourage the reporting of wrongdoings.

3.2.12 The Sides recognise the importance of fair taxation and the need to tackle aggressive tax planning, tax fraud and evasion. The proposed amendment to the Directive on Administrative Cooperation, once agreed, will bring greater transparency, notably to the work of intermediaries giving advice on certain tax related matters which could include such advice to those in the football sector.

3.2.13. The Commission intends to examine, with the authorities of the Member States, the possible ways to cooperate and to exchange information on problem supporters attending sporting events or large public gatherings.

4. MEANS OF COOPERATION

4.1. In order to promote cooperation and further these shared objectives, the Sides intend to:

- (a) identify and participate in joint events, projects, programmes and other initiatives;
- (b) facilitate regular dialogue, coordination and cooperation with relevant bodies and authorities, in particular, at European level;
- (c) exchange information, knowledge and best practice.

5. WORKING METHODS

5.1. Each Side designates a contact person for general matters pertaining to the implementation of this Arrangement.

5.2. The Sides agree to hold regular meetings to deal with the technical and operational issues related to the Arrangement.

5.3. Ad hoc meetings may be held between officials of the Sides on other practical matters;

5.4. The Sides aim at holding a senior level meeting at least once a year between the UEFA General Secretary and the Director-General responsible for Sport in the European Commission or their designated representatives.

5.5. The European Commission and UEFA will endeavour to further develop their cooperation as appropriate.

⁴ <https://rm.coe.int/16801cdd7e>.

⁵ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing affecting the internal market and relating to cross border activities; COM(2017) 340 final. The next report is expected to finalised Summer 2019.

⁶ Final report adopted by the European Parliament PANA Inquiry Committee in October 2017, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/134368/A8-0357_2017_EN.pdf

5.6. The last meeting under this Arrangement for Cooperation should be dedicated to the evaluation of the cooperation. Both sides will adopt a report.

6. FINAL AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1. This Arrangement will start on the date it is signed by both Sides and will continue until 31 December 2020, unless the Sides together decide to extend it.

6.2. The Sides are free to amend this Arrangement in writing.

6.3. Either Side can discontinue this Arrangement at any time, but should endeavour to give three months' notice of such discontinuation to the other Side.

6.4. This Arrangement does not create rights or obligations under international, Union or national law.

Signed in Brussels on 21 February 2018 in two original copies in the English language.