



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

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Union of European Football Associations ("UEFA") that is the governing body for football at European level with a membership of 54 national football associations in Europe, and the European Commission share a common goal to promote and safeguard the values of fairness and openness in sport in their respective areas of action;
- 1.2. UEFA and the European Commission ("the Sides") wish to strengthen their relations; they express their wish to facilitate future co-operation on matters of common interest in a regular and constructive manner; furthermore, they endeavour to foster cooperation and dialogue for the purpose of building a strong legacy with sporting, social, cultural, educational and economic benefits;

Therefore, the two sides accept this Arrangement for Cooperation ('Arrangement').

2. Basis for cooperation

UEFA and the European Commission both consider that the basis for their cooperation is the understanding that the Arrangement and the appropriate initiatives should be undertaken in full respect of the relevant rules, including competition law, at both national and EU level;

- 2.1. UEFA and the European Commission undertake to strengthen their dialogue in the interests of the long-term development and societal role of sport in general and football in particular and to focus on matters of common interest;
- 2.2. Sport is part of Europe's shared culture, bringing together millions of citizens regardless of their origins. It produces a multitude of positive benefits, including contributions to education, social integration and public health. In addition, sport represents a large and fast-growing sector of the economy and makes an important contribution to growth and the creation of jobs, thus contributing to the Europe 2020 strategy;
- 2.3. Today, however, sport faces new challenges, which demand a common effort on the part of all its stakeholders. The risks of corruption, match-fixing, financial instability, human trafficking, doping, violence, racism, and wider public security concerns all require a firm response, which will safeguard the ethics of sport, promote good governance, and ensure a positive future for sport;
- 2.4. The two Sides should endeavour to strengthen policies designed to encourage the local training and education of athletes, including the promotion of dual careers, since they contribute to promoting the social, educational and wider interests of sport;
- 2.5. National team competitions play an essential social role not only in terms of national identity but also by promoting solidarity with grassroots sport. For these reasons, appropriate solutions are to be found in order to ensure that athletes are available to play for their national teams;
- 2.6. Financial solidarity between elite sports and grassroots, but also among clubs of all sports at the professional level, is important in maintaining long-term financial viability and competitive balance, thus also protecting the integrity of sporting competitions. In this respect, redistribution mechanisms concerning, for example, audiovisual media

revenues and training compensation fees should be recommended, in accordance with the EU acquis;

- 2.7. Financial stability, transparency and better governance within sport can be pursued through responsible self-regulation. In this respect, and subject to compliance with competition law, measures to encourage greater rationality and discipline in club finances with a focus on the long-term as opposed to the short-term, such as the Financial Fair Play initiative, contribute to the sustainable development and healthy growth of sport in Europe;
- 2.8. 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;
- 2.9. More broadly, there is a need to promote social dialogue in sport, to protect fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, to promote gender equality, to fight all forms of racism, xenophobia, homophobia and all forms of discrimination including on the ground of disability, and to safeguard the rights and interests of minors in sport. The promotion of the participation of people with disabilities in sports is one of the key actions in the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. In this respect, UEFA can play a role in seeking appropriate solutions to improve good governance standards within football in Europe;
- 2.10. To improve good governance standards, UEFA can also play a prominent role in seeking appropriate solutions on issues pertaining to players' transfers and agents at European level;
- 2.11. Close cooperation involving information exchange between public authorities and sports bodies is needed to prevent, detect and investigate match-fixing. The adoption of an international convention on the manipulation of sports results in this respect represents a significant step forward;

- 2.12. The exploitation of intellectual property rights represents an important source of income for professional football, including redistribution to lower levels of the football pyramid. It is also a tool to guarantee independent financing of football in Europe. Thus, the effective protection of intellectual property rights also in this field is important and should be ensured;
- 2.13. Efforts towards the reinforcement of the Council of Europe convention on spectator violence (1985) are encouraged in order to step up the efforts against violence at football events;
- 2.14. Arbitration is an important voluntary tool for settling disputes in sport and ensuring that sporting rules are applied, interpreted and enforced in an effective and uniform manner, while also ensuring respect of the applicable legal norms and procedural safeguards within and outside of the EU;
- 2.15. In order to further promote the social role of sport, and in particular in relation to health and physical activity, UEFA and the European Commission will collaborate in the context of the planned European Week of Sport, using football to promote healthy physical activity.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. To protect and promote these values and principles and further structure their mutually beneficial cooperation, the two Sides consider as follows:
- 3.1.1. To promote cooperation and strengthen relations between UEFA and the European Commission in the interests of the sustainable development of football;
 - 3.1.2. To exchange information, knowledge and good-practice on matters of common interest;
- 3.2. These objectives bear in mind the respective strengths, organizational structures, mandates and institutional capacities of the two Sides.

4. Implementation

- 4.1. Within the context of the present Arrangement, the policy dialogue between UEFA and the European Commission will be further developed through regular bilateral meetings, where discussions will take place on policy matters of common interest to the two Sides. The Sides aim at holding senior level meetings at least once a year between the General Secretary in UEFA, or his nominated representatives, on the one hand, and the Director-General responsible for Sport in the European Commission, or a representative nominated by him/her, and relevant officials of other European Commission departments with an interest in sport issues, on the other, in order to review the progress of work and to discuss policy and technical issues related to furthering the objectives of the Arrangement;
- 4.2. The focal points for the Cooperation will be the General Secretary of UEFA on the one hand, and the appropriate services responsible for Sport in the European Commission, on the other. The focal points shall ensure coordination with their respective services;
- 4.3. Regular and ad hoc meetings may be held between officials of the Sides, with notification to, and as far as possible the participation of, liaison officials, covering practical matters of cooperation;
- 4.4. The meetings shall be held alternatively within UEFA or European Commission headquarters, or, if agreed by both Sides, could take the form of audio or video conferences. Each Side is to cover its own travel and accommodation costs;
- 4.5. UEFA and the European Commission will endeavour to further develop their cooperation also with regard to this Arrangement, as appropriate.

5. Final and General Considerations

- 5.1. This Arrangement will start from the date of its signature by both Sides and it is due to last until 31 December 2017, unless the Sides together decide to extend its applicability;
- 5.2. The Sides are free to amend this Arrangement in writing;
- 5.3. Either of the Sides can, at any time discontinue the application of this Arrangement, but should endeavour to provide a three-month notice of such discontinuation to the other Side;
- 5.4. This Arrangement does not create rights or obligations under international, EU or domestic law.

Done at Brussels, 14 October 2014, in two originals in the English language.

FOR UEFA

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Michel PLATINI
President

Androulla VASSILIOU
Commissioner for Education, Culture,
Multilingualism and Youth