



Union des associations européennes de football



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## ***UEFA officially launches its Golden Jubilee Year***

### **European Football Union to celebrate its 50 year anniversary on 15 June 2004**

UEFA today officially launched its Jubilee Year within the framework of the Final Draw for UEFA EURO 2004™.

UEFA was founded at a meeting in Basle, Switzerland, on 15 June 1954, during the 1954 World Cup. Delegates representing 30 countries attended that meeting in the Hotel Euler. Shortly afterwards, Ebbe Schwartz of Denmark was named UEFA's first president.

Just one year later, the new UEFA fulfilled one of its most urgent priorities by introducing the European Champion Clubs' Cup (the first five editions of which were won by Real Madrid), thanks largely to journalists from the L'Equipe newspaper. Another objective was met when the first edition of the European Championship was held in 1960.

UEFA's destiny in the decades since then has been largely mirrored by the evolution of these and other competitions. This story, through the subsequent presidencies of Gustav Wiederkehr (Switzerland), Artemio Franchi (Italy), Jacques Georges (France) and Lennart Johansson (Sweden), is traced in a new book to be published on the occasion of the Jubilee UEFA Congress in Cyprus in April 2004. The commemorative books are one of many special Jubilee activities planned during the year 2004. UEFA's exact 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 15 June, will fall during UEFA EURO 2004™ in Portugal, and will be marked accordingly.

To mark UEFA's Golden Jubilee, each of the 52 member associations has been invited to nominate its most outstanding player of the past 50 years. The 52 Golden Players selected, listed below, will find permanent recognition at the House of European Football in Nyon. A specially created display within UEFA's headquarters will feature all 52 stars, thus ensuring a permanent presence for each country's top player.

While each of the 52 European national associations has nominated its own Golden Player, football fans worldwide are being invited to make their voice heard through the 50-50 vote to identify the fans' choice of the 50 best European players of the past 50 years. Fans have until the 11 December to make their choice on uefa.com from pre-selected lists covering the five decades since UEFA was founded in 1954. UEFA will reveal the top 50 on uefa.com, starting with number 50 in the first week of January and building up to the top three in the week of the UEFA Congress in April.

A new UEFA Golden Jubilee logo will be seen at many UEFA events throughout the year, as well as on Jubilee souvenirs. Electronic artwork of the Jubilee logo is available to the media upon request from UEFA Media Services.

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Lennart Johansson, UEFA President :

“Fifty years is a milestone in anybody’s life and is cause for a certain pride. This pride is all the greater when those fifty years have marked a certain progress from little or no resources to becoming an organisation of influence and respect. If you look at the course of UEFA’s development, you will see that a great deal of this success is based upon the impact of its competitions – especially the Champions Clubs’ Cup and more lately the Champions League, as well as the UEFA Cup, the Cup Winners’ Cup and the European Championship. And that perfectly reflects the original intentions of the founders of UEFA in 1954, who had made it a priority to organise attractive competitions for European clubs and national teams.”

Gerhard Aigner, CEO of UEFA :

“It is not easy to know exactly the best way to celebrate such a significant occasion as a fiftieth anniversary. While looking back, we also want to look forward. Our basic objective is to continue to show how UEFA has played the role of a pioneer in the past and intends to continue to be a pioneer in the future. Some of UEFA’s more recent achievements have inevitably been quite a far cry from the aims of the founders 50 years ago, dealing as we now do with development work and social issues such as racism and football for the disabled. But this has also only been possible thanks to the resources that have accumulated as a result of the steady work accomplished over the past half century.”

Lars-Christer Olsson, CEO of UEFA from 1 January 2004 :

“It is especially exciting to become the CEO of UEFA at such a notable juncture in the organisation’s history. We have a busy year lined up – a year that would have been busy enough anyway, especially because of UEFA EURO 2004 <sup>TM</sup> - to ensure that the Golden Jubilee Year will live up to the occasion. Above all, we want the entire European football family to feel involved, to emphasise the community spirit that has grown amongst our 52 member associations, the leagues, clubs, players and fans. Europe is stronger now in every way than it was 50 years ago, or indeed at any time in its history, and UEFA will continue to play a central part in that unity in the years ahead.”

## The UEFA Jubilee 52 Golden Players

ALBANIA	<b>PANO PANAJOT</b>	ITALY	<b>DINO ZOFF</b>
ANDORRA	<b>KOLDO</b>	KAZAKHSTAN	<b>SERGEY KVOCHKIN</b>
ARMENIA	<b>KHOREN HOVHANNISYAN</b>	LATVIA	<b>ALEKSANDRS STARKOVŠ</b>
AUSTRIA	<b>HERBERT PROHASKA</b>	LIECHTENSTEIN	<b>RAINER HASLER</b>
AZERBAIJAN	<b>ANATOLI BANISHEVSKI</b>	LITHUANIA	<b>ARMINAS NARBEKOVAS</b>
BELARUS	<b>SERGEI ALEINIKOV</b>	LUXEMBOURG	<b>LOUIS PILOT</b>
BELGIUM	<b>PAUL VAN HIMST</b>	MACEDONIA	<b>DARKO PANCHEV</b>
BOSNIA & HERZ.	<b>SAFET SUSIC</b>	MALTA	<b>CARMEL BUSUTTIL</b>
BULGARIA	<b>HRISTO STOICHKOV</b>	MOLDOVA	<b>PAVEL CEBANU</b>
CROATIA	<b>DAVOR SUKER</b>	NETHERLANDS	<b>JOHAN CRUYFF</b>
CYPRUS	<b>SOTIRIS KALAFAS</b>	NORWAY	<b>RUNE BRATSETH</b>
CZECH REP.	<b>JOSEF MASOPUST</b>	POLAND	<b>WLODZIMIERZ LUBANSKI</b>
DENMARK	<b>MICHAEL LAUDRUP</b>	PORTUGAL	<b>EUSEBIO</b>
ENGLAND	<b>BOBBY MOORE</b>	ROMANIA	<b>GHEORGHE HAGI</b>
ESTONIA	<b>MART POOM</b>	RUSSIA	<b>LEV YASHIN</b>
FAROES	<b>ABRAHAM LOKIN</b>	SAN MARINO	<b>MASSIMO BONINI</b>
FINLAND	<b>JARI LITMANEN</b>	SCOTLAND	<b>DENIS LAW</b>
FRANCE	<b>JUST FONTAINE</b>	SERBIA & MONT.	<b>DRAGAN DZAJIC</b>
GEORGIA	<b>MURTAZ KHURTSILAVA</b>	SLOVAKIA	<b>JAN POPLUHAR</b>
GERMANY	<b>FRITZ WALTER</b>	SLOVENIA	<b>BRANE OBLAK</b>
GREECE	<b>VASSILIS HATZIPANAGIS</b>	SPAIN	<b>ALFREDO DI STEFANO</b>
HUNGARY	<b>FERENC PUSKAS</b>	SWEDEN	<b>HENRIK LARSSON</b>
ICELAND	<b>ASGEIR SIGURVINSSON</b>	SWITZERLAND	<b>STEPHANE CHAPUISAT</b>
N. IRELAND	<b>PAT JENNINGS</b>	TURKEY	<b>HAKAN SUKUR</b>
IRELAND REP.	<b>JOHNNY GILES</b>	UKRAINE	<b>OLEG BLOKHIN</b>
ISRAEL	<b>MORDECHAI SHPIGLER</b>	WALES	<b>JOHN CHARLES</b>