Union des associations européennes de football

Media Release Date: 03/03/2005
Communiqué aux médias No. 025
Medien-Mitteilung

Rinus Michels passes away

Former UEFA Technical Committee Vice-Chairman and Dutch National Coach

It is with great sadness that UEFA has learned today of the death of Rinus Michels in the city of Aalst, Belgium, at the age of 77. He served on the UEFA Technical Committee from 1990 to 1992 and then became Vice-Chairman from 1992 to 2004.

Over the last decade, he was an active member of the Technical Study Group for the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA European Championship, as well as an important advisor to the development of the UEFA coaching licence.

Rinus Michels was one of the world's leading coaches. He guided The Netherlands to the 1974 FIFA World Cup final and the 1988 UEFA European Championship title. His achievements were acknowledged by UEFA in April 2002 when he was presented with the Order of Merit award at the XXVI UEFA Ordinary Congress in Stockholm.

UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, said:

"Rinus Michels was an excellent coach and a great manager. Not only the KNVB but also the European football family has lost a personality who devoted a large part of his life to our sport. We will always remember him for his outstanding contribution to our game".

UEFA CEO, Lars-Christer Olsson, said:

"Rinus Michels dedicated an important part of his life to football and contributed to the game's development and history. We send our sincere condolences to his family and many friends. He will really be sadly missed by the KNVB and by us at UEFA"

UEFA Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, said:

"Rinus Michels was a vital member of UEFA's technical team, an inspiration to all of us in the coaching business and a wonderful man. He will be very sadly missed by all of us colleagues, coaches and friends."

For further information:
UEFA Media Services: ++41-22 99 44 55 9

Route de Genève 46
CH-1260 Nyon 2
Tel. +41 22 994 45 59
Fax +41 22 994 37 37
media@uefa.ch
uefa.com