

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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UEFA Executive Committee Report 2004

XXIX Ordinary UEFA Congress, Tallinn, Estonia



Summary

2004 marked the fiftieth anniversary of UEFA, which was founded in Basle on 15 June 1954. The Golden Jubilee was celebrated throughout the year at various events, with the focus always on the member associations, which form the very soul of UEFA. A new two-volume publication retraced UEFA's history and competitions and the uefa.com website devoted countless pages to the Jubilee, putting the spotlight on the national associations.

Although the anniversary provided the opportunity to look back, pay tribute to the pioneers who breathed life into our organisation and set it on the path to success, and gauge what has already been achieved, the Executive Committee did not forget, during its seven ordinary sessions held in 2004, to discuss the present-day activities of European football and look for ways of safeguarding its success and popularity. The Executive Committee also held two strategic meetings during which it stepped back a little in order to analyse certain issues and map out the way ahead.

The most important event of the year, however, took place on the pitch: in Portugal, the 16 teams that had qualified for the final round of the European Championship provided, in a festive atmosphere, a high-quality spectacle that was enjoyed by spectators and television viewers all over the world. This unprecedented success, both on the pitch and in economic terms, showed the extraordinary popularity of international football more clearly than ever before and should encourage us to do everything in our power to protect it. With this aim in mind, measures designed to promote player development and the protection of local-trained players were presented at the Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries in Lisbon in July. These themes were discussed on numerous occasions in different forums throughout the year, with a view to drawing up a final proposal in 2005.



With regard to this issue and many others besides, relations with Brussels remain extremely important, particularly now that the European Union has ten new members. We were also able, as part of our Jubilee celebrations, to present an exhibition at the European Parliament, explaining UEFA activities which are still unknown to many people. Also during 2004, a new Constitutional Treaty was approved, recognising the special nature of sport. UEFA's efforts to achieve such recognition and to strengthen links with the European Union and the member states' governments have been led by the Executive Committee, particularly its working group responsible for these matters.

UEFA has also continued its solidarity policy this year through its HatTrick programme, which offers assistance to all member associations. As part of the Jubilee celebrations, UEFA in particular offered each association a prototype mini-pitch, paving the way for plans to install large numbers of mini-pitches throughout Europe.

Another aspect of UEFA's charity work was a joint campaign with the ICRC. The high profile of UEFA EURO 2004™ was used to draw people's attention to the plight of child victims of war. UEFA also continued its policy of donating all monies collected from fines in all its competitions to charitable causes. To mark its Jubilee, it also set up a fund which, thanks to donations from the national associations and UEFA itself, sent USD 100,000 to help develop football in East Timor.

Following the horrific catastrophe that struck the coasts of South and South-East Asia as well as part of Africa, UEFA joined forces with FIFA to express its solidarity by organising a match in Barcelona in aid of the victims. In addition, it donated one million dollars to the International Committee of the Red Cross in support of child victims of the tsunami in Sri Lanka and a further one million dollars to the solidarity fund set up by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation.

To sum up, 2004 was a very busy year, as reflected in greater detail in the Chief Executive's report.



Work Programme

In 2004, the Executive Committee once again completed a very busy programme of meetings, visits and other activities. Below are the main decisions taken at its seven plenary sessions:

5 February – Nyon

- The Atatürk Olympic stadium in Istanbul is chosen to host the 2005 Champions League final and the José Alvalade stadium in Lisbon is selected as the venue for the 2005 UEFA Cup final.
- The Turkish FA is entrusted with the organisation of the Meridian Cup.
- New anti-doping regulations are adopted in harmony with those of FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- A new format is adopted for the European Women's Under-19 Championship.

22 March – Dublin

- The UEFA club competition regulations for 2004/05 are adopted, with the silver goal abolished in accordance with the decision of the International FA Board.
- It is decided that the visual identity of the new UEFA Cup should be branded centrally.
- Revised disciplinary regulations are approved.
- Hungary is designated as host nation for the final round of the 2005 European Women's Under-19 Championship.



21/22 April – Limassol

- Israeli clubs are authorised to play home matches in their country again.
- Solidarity payments to be made under the HatTrick assistance programme are agreed.
- Regulations are approved for the 2004/05 European Under-17 and Under-19 Championships and for the 2004/05 UEFA Regions' Cup.
- The amended UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications is adopted.
- A revised version of the booklet describing the duties of the UEFA delegate at UEFA competition matches is approved.

23 April – Limassol

- The new Executive Committee is appointed following elections held by the Congress on the same day.



19 May – Gothenburg

- Two additional members are co-opted to the Executive Committee: Gilberto Parca Madail (Portugal) and Grigoriy Surkis (Ukraine).
- TEAM Marketing AG is designated as UEFA's marketing partner for the UEFA Champions League from 2006 to 2009.
- An experimental referee exchange programme for the national associations is approved.
- The Luxembourg FA is entrusted with the organisation of the final round of the 2005/06 European Under-17 Championship.

29 June – Lisbon

- The composition of the committees and panels for the 2004-06 period is approved.
- A tripartite body involving the Executive Committee, professional leagues and clubs is approved.
- A memorandum of understanding between UEFA and FIFPro is approved in principle.

16 September – Sofia

- A more intensive anti-doping programme is approved, with the creation of a specialised unit within the UEFA Administration.
- TEAM Marketing AG is selected to market the commercial rights for the 2005 and 2006 UEFA Cup finals and the 2005 UEFA Super Cup.
- The calendar for UEFA's financial year and annual Congresses is amended.

10 November – Vienna

- The use of artificial turf is authorised in all UEFA competitions from the 2005/06 season.
- A Conference of Presidents and General Secretaries is convened in Nyon in February 2005.
- The number of teams in the first division for the FIFA Women's World Cup qualifying competition is increased.

15/16 December – Nyon

- A "Top Executive" programme is approved for the presidents and general secretaries of the member associations.
- The terms of reference of the UEFA committees are approved.
- The bid regulations for UEFA EURO 2012 are approved.
- The Polish FA is entrusted with the organisation of the final round of the 2004/05 UEFA Regions' Cup.

The Executive Committee also held two strategic meetings: the first was held in Nyon on 4 February and the second in Sofia on 15 September, in preparation for a meeting of the FIFA Executive Committee.



This list of decisions, which is far from exhaustive, provides an insight into the extent and diversity of the work of the Executive Committee, whose discussions throughout the year also focused on issues including:

- preparations for UEFA EURO 2004 and initial work on UEFA EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland;
- the introduction of the UEFA club licensing system;
- the adoption and control of the budget, as well as other financial operations;
- the Club World Championship and Europe's representation in this competition;
- relations between UEFA and the national associations, leagues and clubs;
- the international calendar;
- preparations for the Conference of presidents and general secretaries in Lisbon and the Congress in Limassol;
- the development of the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications.

To help it take decisions, analyse topical issues and explore new avenues, the Executive Committee was able to rely on the support of its four working groups, chaired by the four UEFA vice-presidents: Clubs and Leagues (Senes Erzik), European Union (Per Ravn Omdal), Football Development (Angel Maria Villar Llona), and National Associations (Geoffrey Thompson).

The Executive Committee members, acting as observers, also attended meetings of the UEFA committees to advise them and to inform the Executive Committee about their work.

They also maintained links with the national associations in accordance with established portfolios, attending general assemblies or ceremonies such as the inauguration of mini-pitches. The Executive Committee was also well represented at final tournaments, UEFA competition matches and other events, enabling it to remain constantly in touch with the different members of the European football family. It is in the same spirit of openness that the president and general secretary of associations that host Executive Committee meetings are now invited to attend those meetings.



Future Prospects

The world today is changing at such lightning speed that UEFA has to be flexible enough to adapt constantly to new situations or, if possible, even anticipate them.

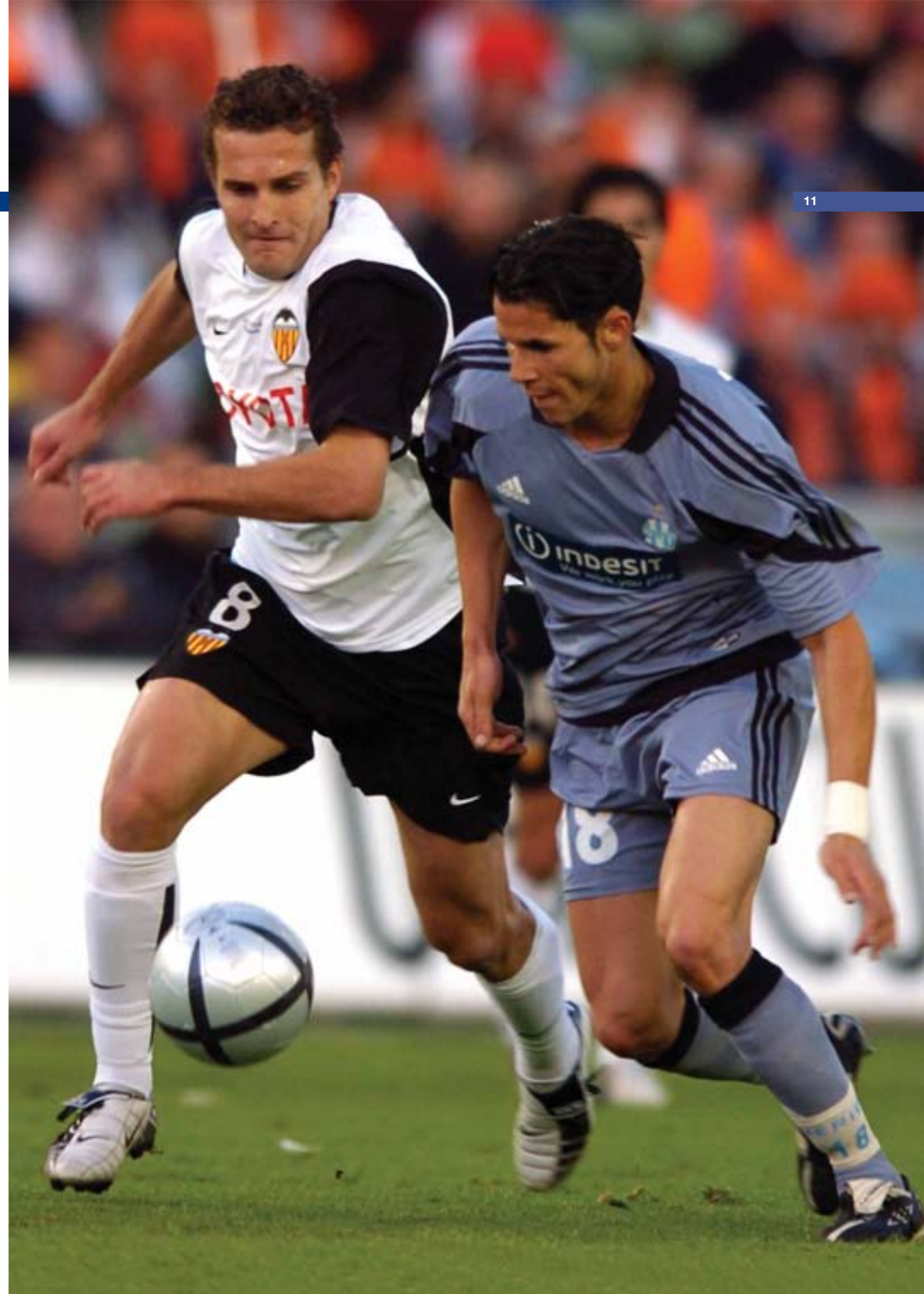
It is against this background that UEFA, led by its new Chief Executive, Lars-Christer Olsson, recently restructured its administration in order to make it even more efficient and enable it to meet increasing demands in every field. The decision to market an event as huge as the final round of the European Championship ourselves proved to be a wise one and some fine-tuning is now needed for future finals. Investment in new technologies has also paid off and UEFA now runs an extremely valuable Internet site; however, constant technical progress means that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

UEFA also restructured its club competitions, firstly changing the format of the UEFA Champions League and then giving the UEFA Cup a face-lift. We will need to analyse in detail the impact of these changes in order to safeguard the popularity and financial success of these competitions.

Even though our relations with the European Union have come on in leaps and bounds, with much greater mutual understanding, dialogue must be stepped up even further so that the specific nature of sport (including football), which has now been recognised, is fully taken into account by decision-makers in Brussels.

However, "internal" matters should perhaps remain the primary focus of UEFA's attention. UEFA has already taken a giant step forward to improve the game's infrastructure by creating a licensing system for clubs, a system whose implementation requires close monitoring and analysis.

Furthermore, the financial stakes involved in the elite professional game are creating a divergence of interests and opinions in European football circles. Of course, it is important that everyone's views are heard and that platforms should exist for opinion-sharing. However, it is even more vital that the balance between the grassroots and the elite is maintained and that we never lose sight of football's global appeal. This is the role of UEFA at European level and of the associations at national level. We must spare no effort in the coming years to ensure that this role is strengthened and recognised in the general interest of football and the unity of our sport.





Acknowledgements

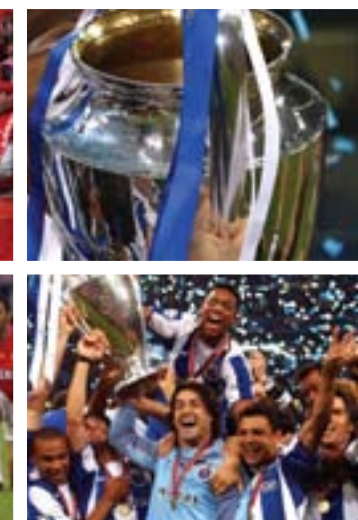
The work of the Executive Committee and of UEFA as a whole is so vast that it relies on the help of an enormous army of people too numerous to mention here by name. However, we would like to express our thanks to all the members of the UEFA committees, panels and working groups, as well as everyone who, within our associations and their leagues and clubs, has contributed to the well-being of football in Europe. We are also grateful to our television and commercial partners who have helped to promote our competitions.

The Executive Committee welcomes the friendly relations that have been established with FIFA and which have enabled the two organisations to examine issues of general interest to world football. The Executive Committee has also enjoyed a certain continuity, since all the members who stood for re-election (Marios N. Lefkaritis, Geoffrey Thompson, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Mathieu Sprengers, Viacheslav Koloskov, Per Ravn Omdal and Joseph Mifsud) were successful at the Limassol Congress. Henri Roemer resigned and was replaced by Franco Carraro, already a special adviser to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee does not wish to end this report without thanking the players, referees, officials and supporters who represent the very soul of our sport.

It would also like to pay tribute to its Honorary President, Jacques Georges, who died in February 2004. After leading UEFA between 1983 and 1990, a period tainted by the Heysel tragedy, Jacques Georges put our organisation on the road to its current prosperity and later became a regular participant at Executive Committee meetings. He was always keen to share his experience with others and to help them take the game forward.

Lennart Johansson UEFA Executive Committee
UEFA President





Report of the UEFA Executive Committee

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Members of the UEFA Executive Committee

President: Lennart Johansson, Sweden 1988 - 2006

Vice-Presidents: Senes Erzik, Turkey 1990 - 2006
Per Ravn Omdal, Norway 1992 - 2008
Angel María Villar Llona, Spain 1992 - 2006
Geoffrey Thompson, England 2000 - 2008

Treasurer: Mathieu Sprengers, Netherlands 1996 - 2008

Members: Franco Carraro, Italy 2004 - 2008
Viacheslav Koloskov, Russia 1994 - 2008
Marios N. Lefkaritis, Cyprus 1996 - 2008
Eggert Magnusson, Iceland 2002 - 2006
Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Germany 2000 - 2008
Joseph Mifsud, Malta 1994 - 2006
Michel Platini, France 2002 - 2006
Giangiorgio Spiess, Switzerland 1996 - 2006

Co-opted members: Gilberto Parca Madaíl, Portugal 2004 - 2006
Grigoriy Surkis, Ukraine 2004 - 2006

Chief Executive: Lars-Christer Olsson

European members of the FIFA Executive Committee:

Vice-Presidents: Lennart Johansson, Sweden 1990 - 2006
Angel María Villar Llona, Spain 1998 - 2006
David H. Will, Scotland 1990 - 2006

Members: Michel D'Hooghe, Belgium 1988 - 2008
Senes Erzik, Turkey 1996 - 2008
Viacheslav Koloskov, Russia 2000 - 2008
Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Germany 2002 - 2006
Michel Platini, France 2002 - 2008



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