

Media Release

Communiqué aux médias

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**Union des associations
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Strong punishment for FC Utrecht and FC Dinamo Tbilisi

Both clubs to play one match behind closed doors

The UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body today announced the main decisions taken at its meeting of 10 October held at The House of European Football in Nyon, Switzerland.

UEFA has sent a letter with a copy of the ten point plan against racism (see Media Release 145 of 10 October) to those clubs whose grounds have seen racist behaviour during the recent matches of the UEFA Club Competitions, urging them to take all necessary action in future to implement these measures to fight against racism.

Following crowd disturbances at their UEFA Cup match played on 3 October against Legia Warszawa (1-3) FC Utrecht will have to play their next UEFA Club Competition match behind closed doors. The home supporters threw several missiles, burned seats and invaded the pitch, leading to the interruption of the game for a period of forty minutes. Furthermore a racist banner was brandished by some of the FC Utrecht supporters. A fine of 15'000 CHF was imposed on Legia Warszawa for the improper conduct and provocative behaviour of their fans during the same game.

FC Dinamo Tbilisi of Georgia will also have to play one match behind closed doors following serious crowd disturbances at their UEFA Cup match played on 3 October against FC Slovan Liberec (0-1). Several missiles were thrown on the pitch and one of the assistant referees was hit by a stone. The UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body underlined the general lack of organisation and asked for a stadium inspection to be conducted before any other game could be played in the Boris Paichadze stadium.

PSV Eindhoven were fined 30'000 CHF for the improper conduct of their supporters which included racist abuse and throwing of missiles at the player Thierry Henry during the UEFA Champions League game played on 25 September against Arsenal FC (0-4). The official reports did not mention these incidents and the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body pointed out that Arsenal FC did not complain nor did they submit a statement or any evidence of the alleged racist behaviour of the Dutch supporters. The Body also took into account the video evidence clearly showing that only a very small minority of individuals insulted the Arsenal FC player when reaching a decision.

FC Basel were fined 30'000 CHF for the setting off and throwing of a smoke bomb that resulted in the interruption of their UEFA Champions League match played on 17 September against Spartak Moscow (2-0) for about four minutes.

FK Sartid of Yugoslavia were fined 25'000 CHF for the racist behaviour of their spectators (animal gestures and noises directed at players of Ipswich Town FC) at their UEFA Cup game played on 3 October against Ipswich Town FC (0-1).

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Club Brugge KV were fined 22'000 CHF for the improper conduct of their supporters, namely racist abuse against a player of Lokomotiv Moscow at the UEFA Champions League match played on 24 September against FC Lokomotiv Moscow (0-0).

Feyenoord were fined 10'000 CHF for unsporting abuse of a player during the UEFA Champions League match played on 18 September against Juventus FC (1-1) as well as for the setting-off of some fireworks.

HNK Hajduk Split were fined 5'000 CHF for the setting-off of fireworks by local supporters in their UEFA Cup match played on 19 September against Fulham FC (0-1). The club has been cleared from charges of racism as there was no conclusive evidence available.

Valencia CF were cleared of the charges of racist abuse as none of the reports of the various officials, nor the television images showed any evidence of racist behaviour by their supporters during the UEFA Champions League match played on 17 September against Liverpool FC (2-0).

The disciplinary case opened against CSKA Sofia following their UEFA Cup match played on 03 October against Blackburn Rovers FC (3-3) was postponed to the next meeting of the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body, yet to be scheduled, as new evidence was presented concerning the alleged racist behaviour of the Bulgarian supporters. The crowd disturbances as well as the case of the player Velizar Dimitrov, who was sent off, will be dealt with at the same meeting.

Hertha BSC Berlin were fined 10'000 CHF for unsporting loudspeaker announcements and the setting-off of Bengal lights during their UEFA Cup match played on 01 October against Aberdeen FC (1-0). Furthermore, the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body decided to suspend the German player Andreas Neuendorf for four matches for headbutting an opponent.

FK Partizan manager Nenad Bjekovic was suspended for four matches for his improper conduct towards the referee during the UEFA Cup game played on 03 October against Sporting Clube de Portugal (3-3). The FK Partizan player Dejan Zivkovic was suspended for two matches for a particularly rough tackle during the same game.

The above decisions can be appealed against by Monday 14 October midnight.

All other decisions taken by the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body will be released next Tuesday 15 October in the afternoon.