

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Executive Committee Report 2005

XXX Ordinary UEFA Congress, Budapest, Hungary



UEFA
Route de Genève 46
CH-1260 Nyon 2
Switzerland
Telephone +41 848 00 27 27
Telefax +41 848 01 27 27
uefa.com

Union des associations
européennes de football



Summary

Having celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2004, UEFA marked the 50th anniversary of the European cup competitions in 2005. It was in September 1955 that the first matches were played in the European Champion Clubs' Cup, which became the UEFA Champions League in 1992. Following the celebration of the 50th final in Istanbul, the draw in Monaco saw the launch of a series of events which will mark this anniversary at various stages of the season and pay tribute to those who have played a part in the incredible adventure of the European cup competitions.

The European competitions, for both national teams and clubs, have been the subject of a significant proportion of the Executive Committee's discussions over the past year, whether in relation to their regulations or formats - as was the case with the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the European Under-21 Championship and the European Women's Championship - or the commercialisation of the UEFA Cup.

Faithful to the Vision Europe strategy adopted by the Tallinn Congress in April 2005, the Executive Committee has always endeavoured, in its deliberations, to give sporting interests top priority. At the same time, it has also tried to take decisions designed to strengthen the financial well-being of our sport in order to ensure that it continues to develop and to promote quality. These efforts to strike a balance between the sporting aspects and economic considerations can only succeed if the stable foundations on which football's complex structure is based are protected.





Over the past few years, professional football activities have often been treated in the same way as other, purely economic activities and made subject to the same laws, particularly at European Union level. The Executive Committee, with the national associations in its slipstream, has therefore continued and stepped up dialogue with the European Union authorities in an attempt to show them that the specific nature of our sport is sufficient to justify measures such as those designed to promote training and protect the regional identity of clubs by forcing every club to include an increasing number of homegrown players on their match sheet for European competitions – and domestic too ones if possible.

Throughout the year, UEFA also focused on internal dialogue, signing Memorandums of Understanding with the professional leagues and FIFPro, which represents players. It has also begun similar discussions with the clubs, although the huge differences between their interests do not make this task any easier.

Under the banner of its HatTrick assistance programme, which is available to all member associations, UEFA has remained loyal to the principle of solidarity which also characterises its policy towards clubs in relation to the distribution of income from the UEFA Champions League.

Following the campaign launched to mark UEFA's Golden Jubilee, numerous new mini-pitches have been constructed all over Europe. This extremely popular project forms part of the vast range of efforts made to develop grassroots football and to give it the attention it deserves. The HatTrick programme has also been used to fund seminars aimed at strengthening the position of the national associations by developing their management skills and ability to act. In a similar way, a Top Executive Programme has been launched for the national associations' most senior officials.

UEFA has adjusted the focus of its cooperation with the African Football Confederation (CAF) as part of the Meridian Project, with training now the main priority.

To sum up, 2005 was a very busy year, as described in greater detail in the CEO's report.

Work Programme

In 2005, the Executive Committee once again completed a very busy programme of meetings, visits and other activities. It held six ordinary meetings and the selection of decisions described below reflects the wide range of fields it dealt with.

2 February - Nyon

SportFive agency entrusted with the task of marketing the television rights for UEFA EURO 2008.

Measures adopted to encourage local training of players and to support the development of national teams.

Semi-final stage introduced in the UEFA Futsal Cup.

Creation of a UEFA Coaches Circle including around 700 coaches approved.

19 April - Tallinn

Venues chosen for the club competition finals: for the UEFA Champions League, the Stade de France in St-Denis, Paris in 2006 and the Olympic Stadium in Athens in 2007; for the UEFA Cup, the PSV stadium in Eindhoven in 2006 and Hampden Park, Glasgow in 2007.

Format approved for the EURO 2008 qualifying phase, to be played in seven groups, with the top two in each group qualifying for the finals.

Final round of the 2007 European Futsal Championship awarded to the Portuguese Football Federation and the date moved from the beginning of the year to the autumn.

17/18 June - Manchester

New timetable adopted for the final round of the European Under-21 Championship, to be played in odd-numbered years from 2007 onwards.

Green light given to the centralised marketing of commercial rights in the UEFA Cup from the quarter-finals onwards, beginning in the 2006/07 season.

EURO 2008 schedule adopted.

European youth competition regulations approved for the 2005/06 season.

Monaco confirmed as the venue of the UEFA Super Cup and new season launch events for the 2006-09 period.

Approval given to the creation of a UEFA documentation centre.

21 September - Rome

New format adopted for the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

New version (2.0) of the Club Licensing Manual adopted.

Regulations adopted for the European Under-21 Championship and youth competitions for 2006/07, with the introduction of an additional rest day in the youth competition qualifying mini-tournaments.

Distribution of income from fines to charitable institutions approved in accordance with the portfolio previously adopted.

Ukrainian Football Federation asked to host the 2008 Ordinary Congress.

7/8 November - Malta

Two-division system abolished in the qualifying phase of the European Women's Championship and final round increased to 12 teams.

Initial selection in the bidding process for EURO 2012: bids from Italy, Croatia/Hungary and Poland/Ukraine shortlisted.

Convention on referee education approved, to be presented to the Budapest Congress in 2006.





15/16 December - Nyon

Portuguese and Dutch Football Associations asked to host the European Under-21 Championships in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Declaration against racism and discrimination in European football adopted.

Final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship awarded to the French Football Federation in 2008 and to Belarus in 2009.

The Executive Committee also held three strategic meetings:

The first, held in Nyon on 1 February, focused on UEFA's role and strategy for the next ten years; the second, held during the first part of its ordinary meeting in Manchester on 17/18 June, looked at safety issues at UEFA competition matches. The third, which kicked off the final meeting of the year in Nyon, dealt with financial matters.

The Executive Committee also held an extraordinary meeting in Istanbul on the occasion of the UEFA Champions League final. It extended the contract between UEFA and the TEAM agency for the marketing of commercial rights for the UEFA Champions League to cover the seasons from 2009 to 2012. At the same time, the Executive Committee decided that UEFA would acquire a 20% share in the company TEAM Holding AG.

The Committee also decided to allow Liverpool FC to participate in the 2005/06 Champions League and adopted the principle that the trophy-holders should be allowed to defend their title the following season, regardless of their position in the national championship.



Certain themes were the subject of repeated discussions throughout the year. These included:

- preparations for EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland
- consolidation of the UEFA club licensing system
- questions relating to the European Union
- management of UEFA's financial resources
- implementation of the HatTrick assistance programme
- relations between UEFA and the national associations, their leagues and clubs
- the international calendar
- the development of the Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications and other technical matters.

The Executive Committee was again assisted by its four working groups, which investigated certain subjects, prepared for meetings and facilitated decision-making. Senes Erzik chaired the Clubs and Leagues Working Group, Per Ravn Omdal the EU Matters Working Group, Angel Maria Villar Llona the Football Development Working Group and Geoffrey Thompson the National Associations Working Group.

The Executive Committee members were also kept constantly informed about the activities of the UEFA committees, at whose meetings they were regularly represented in accordance with an established portfolio. They continued to maintain links with the national associations, inviting the presidents and general secretaries of the associations hosting their meetings to

follow their discussions. They represented UEFA at these associations' general assemblies, carried out visits in order to address specific issues and responded to invitations to other events, such as special anniversaries and official ceremonies.

The Executive Committee was also well represented at final tournaments, UEFA competition matches and other events, enabling it to remain in permanent contact with the various members of the European football family and to be attentive to their concerns.

Future Prospects

European football is popular and thriving, enjoying high technical standards and considerable financial income. It is pleasing to note that women's football is clearly growing, while futsal is also developing rapidly.

Coaching of young players is a priority for all the associations and measures are being taken to improve the ability of coaches as well as the quality of the coaching itself. UEFA welcomes these developments, but is fully aware that this situation can only continue if constant efforts to progress are made. This is why its administration, under the guidance of Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson, has adopted a flexibility which enables it to be proactive rather than reactive and to implement new ideas, as it did successfully with the commercialisation of EURO 2008.

It is also why training is at the heart of the HatTrick assistance programme available to all the national associations, helping them to develop their skills and strengthen their position. It is also important to continue to ensure that the specific nature of sport and the role of the international federations, which have already been recognised by the European Union, continue to be taken into consideration and that football can thus protect its unity, take all necessary steps to defend its interests and manage the income it generates in accordance with the solidarity principle.



Although the overall situation of European football is very positive, the picture is not all rosy. Too many matches continue to be blighted by incidents that reflect a lack of respect for the referee or opponents.

Racism in particular is far from eradicated and corruption, doping, rumours of money laundering, people's selfish pursuit of their own interests and the desire to make money also cast a shadow over professional football from time to time.

Measures have been taken in each of these areas over the past year: out-of-competition doping controls in the UEFA Champions League, an agreement with a betting surveillance agency, support for the work of the FARE network and for the MEPs' declaration against racism, to mention just a few. The Executive Committee will continue to monitor the situation closely and will not hesitate to take further measures where necessary. It is also hoping that the long term effects of the club licensing system will provide football with solid foundations and the transparency it needs.



Acknowledgements

The scope of European football is so broad that the Executive Committee would be unable to carry out its task without the support of all the people who, within the national associations, leagues and clubs as well as the committees, panels and working groups, bring their knowledge and goodwill to bear in the service of European football.

We are very grateful to them and would also like to thank our commercial and television partners, without whom football's popularity and financial health would be greatly diminished. Let us not forget the players, referees, officials and supporters, who form the very foundation of our sport.

Thanks to the harmonious atmosphere amongst its members, the Executive Committee has been able to work efficiently and calmly. Relations with the other continental confederations have also been characterised by mutual respect and understanding, for the good of football.

Lennart Johansson
UEFA Executive Committee





Members of the UEFA Executive Committee

President: Lennart Johansson, Sweden

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

Treasurer: Mathieu Sprengers, Netherlands

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

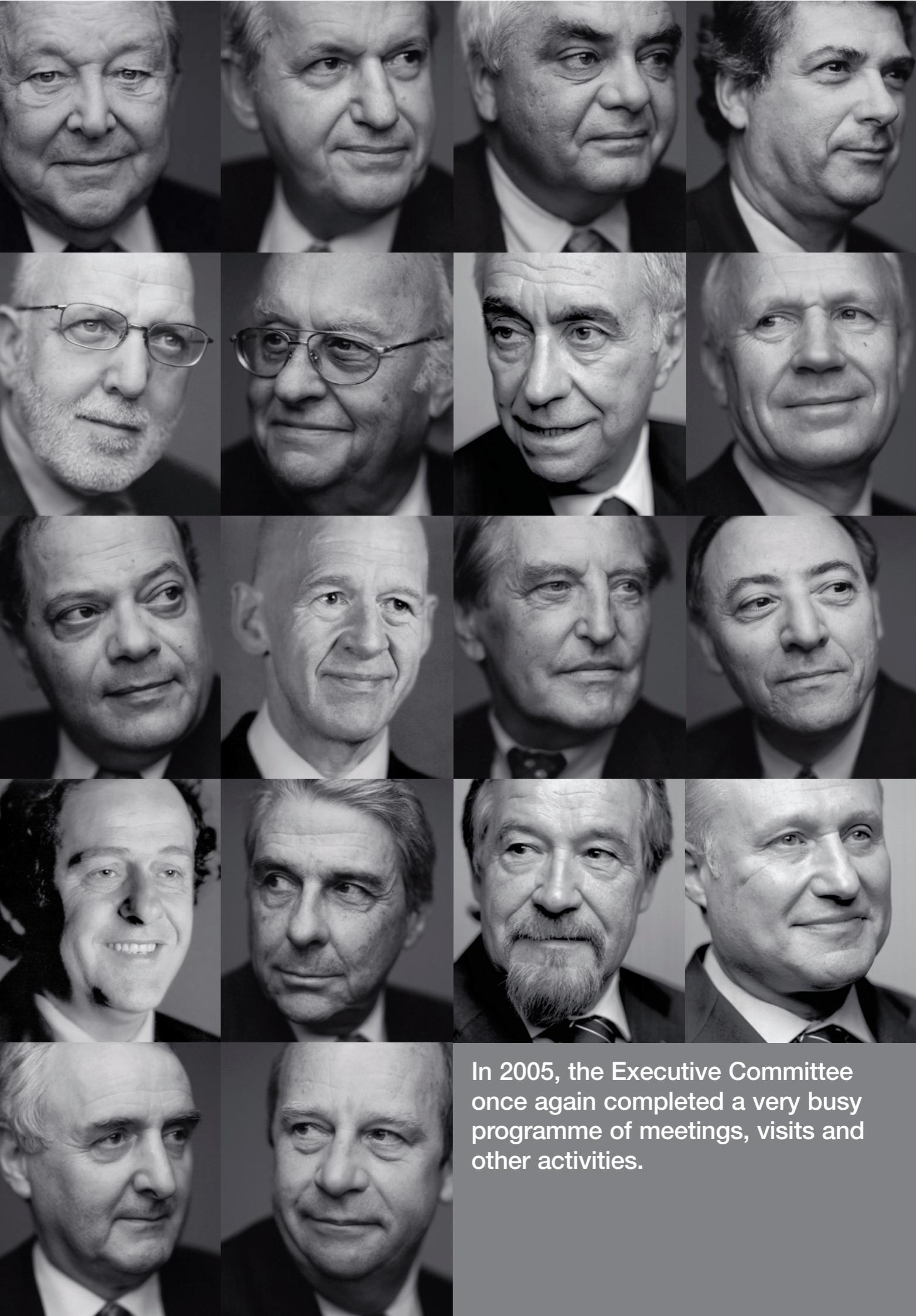
Co-opted members: Gilberto Parca Madail, Portugal
Grigoriy Surkis, Ukraine

Chief Executive: Lars-Christer Olsson

European members of the FIFA Executive Committee:

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

Members: Michel D'Hooghe, Belgium
Senes Erzik, Turkey
Viacheslav Koloskov, Russia
Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, Germany
Michel Platini, France



In 2005, the Executive Committee once again completed a very busy programme of meetings, visits and other activities.