



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

Date: 11/07/2006

Communiqué aux médias

No. 078

Medien-Mitteilung

UEFA Executive Committee Berlin decisions

Lennart Johansson announces intention to stand at 2007 presidential election

At its meeting today in Berlin, Germany, the UEFA Executive Committee was informed by current UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, of his intention to stand again for election for a further four-year term, at the forthcoming presidential election, due at the UEFA Congress in Germany in January 2007. Johansson has been President of UEFA since 1990. The full statement is included in the attached pages.

In other decisions taken today at its meeting, the Executive Committee agreed the following:

To maintain the deadline of 25 July for the Italian FA to submit the list of clubs eligible for participation in European club competitions, with a reminder that according to the FIFA and UEFA statutes disciplinary cases have to be dealt with by the appropriate bodies within the sporting structure.

To award the hosting of the UEFA European Women's Football Championship 2009 to Finland, and to approve the regulations thereof.

To approve the regulations for the UEFA European Under-19 and Under-17 Championships 2007/08, and the UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2007/08.

To approve the UEFA administration operational budget of 2006/07.

Finally, to approve the awarding of the 2006 Monaco Award, the annual charity cheque of one million Swiss francs presented by UEFA to a deserving foundation or cause, to IBSA the International Blind Sports Federation.

The next meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee will be held on 4 and 5 October 2006 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Encl: Lennart Johansson Statement on UEFA Presidency (3 pages)

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11th July 2006

LENNART JOHANSSON STATEMENT ON UEFA PRESIDENCY

UEFA President, Lennart Johansson, has today confirmed that he intends to seek a further, and final, term of office as UEFA President.

Speaking at a media conference in Berlin, following a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee, Mr Johansson said:

“There can be no doubt that the 2006 FIFA World Cup has been a great success and as Chairman of the Organising Committee I have been proud of the work done by so many of the football family to provide such a showcase over the last month, here in Germany, and across the world. My congratulations to everyone involved.

“The last few weeks have also been an important time for me personally, not only because of my involvement in this great tournament but I have been thinking deeply about the future of the UEFA Presidency.

“Over this time many football colleagues have been speaking to me. I have held conversations with the UEFA Executive Committee, national association Presidents and others who also care for UEFA and European football. I have listened carefully to what has been said and have been encouraged by the shared sense of what should guide us going forward.

“Certain principles have been a common thread in these discussions, principles which I have always believed in; the importance of solidarity, the need for evolution not revolution in the game and the desire to build sensibly on the successes of the past.

"I have been honoured by the number of colleagues in Europe and across the world, including the FIFA President, who have said they want continuity and stable leadership and feel that I can, and should, provide that in Europe.

"We have discussed what has been achieved and what we must do to provide a secure future for UEFA, the national associations and football across the continent.

"All of this and the requests I have received to remain as President have convinced me that I should seek a further, and final, term of office.

"Ever since I was elected UEFA President in 1990, I have made every effort to both lead and serve the European football family. Along the way we have faced many tough challenges and every time we have found answers which have made us stronger.

"I am proud of that track-record over the last 16 years and at every step I have tried to provide leadership, find practical solutions and build consensus based on the principles of UEFA. I also have the energy and the commitment to develop that legacy for the future.

"In my time as UEFA President we have modernised our organisation and our competitions but have never forgotten the roots of football in Europe - the national associations and the pyramid structure which keeps the game alive. We have embraced change; we have engaged new voices in the game, strengthened our relations with the EU and national governments and kept our sense of direction.

"We have also used UEFA's commercial success to benefit the game throughout Europe - true to the principle of solidarity. That principle is dear to my heart and the achievements of the UEFA HatTrick programme show what is possible.

“In summary, I believe we have been getting the overall balance right and the message I have received is to continue that approach and lead the next phase of UEFA’s development. My colleagues in the Executive Committee have confirmed that today and expressed their support for my intention to stand again for the Presidency.

“Over the next few months I will be setting out in more detail how UEFA can build on our past and create a stable and successful future. We have a busy, important time ahead and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues so that together we can build a real legacy for the future of European football.

“That is my goal and I am honoured by the support I have had to pursue this path of unity and continuity.”

Ends