

Media Release

Communiqué aux médias

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**Union des associations
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UEFA proposes neutral venue for UEFA Cup tie

FC Anzhi Makhachkala – Rangers FC match to be played as a single tie at neutral venue

UEFA today announced that, in light of the military developments over the last 24 hours in the border area between Chechnya and Dagestan and the withdrawal of the insurance cover available to Rangers FC (notified to UEFA this morning), the UEFA Cup tie between FC Anzhi Makhachkala and Rangers FC should be played as a single match at a neutral venue on Thursday 27 September 2001. The venue will be announced in due course.

Commenting on the decision, Gerhard Aigner, UEFA Chief Executive, said:

"We have continued to closely monitor the security situation in the region which has clearly deteriorated over the last 24 hours. In addition, we have now been informed that the insurance cover for Rangers FC has been withdrawn.

"In light of these developments, and to be fair to both the clubs concerned, we have decided that this match should be played as a single tie at a neutral venue on Thursday 27 September.

"UEFA has a responsibility to all of the clubs and territories involved in our competitions and a duty to protect the draw and the rules of the competition. We also have a duty to ensure that participants can play safely and securely.

"Throughout this process we have taken independent advice and guidance, closely monitored all relevant developments and continued to speak with those who have raised concerns. Our approach has been endorsed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport and we have to ensure that precedents are not set which may then be open to abuse.

"In this case the balance has shifted over the last 24 hours due to a changing security and insurance situation and we believe it is in the interest of the clubs and the competition that the match now be rescheduled."

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