

Including



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Photos: UEFA, p/woods.ch

# Message of the president Shared values

A congress is certainly not as glamorous as a final or an exciting match in one of the UEFA competitions, but it is nevertheless an important event in the life of our organisation.

Not only does it give representatives of all our member associations an opportunity to air their views on the current issues in European football and exchange opinions and experiences. More importantly, it strengthens the ties that bind our organisation.

As the governing body of a team sport, we are ideally placed to understand the importance of cohesion within a team. We also know that the attention paid to the regular, first-choice players must not cause the substitutes to be neglected, because it is the atmosphere and harmony within the team as a whole which is often one of the keys to its success. In the same way, after elections, we are right to congratulate those who are elected, but it is also important not to forget those who missed out and those who, for whatever reason, did not stand for election.

This is why UEFA has a system of committees and panels, so that everyone can make their voice heard within European football, and why we also invite all the members of the European football family – the associations, leagues, clubs and players – to join the dialogue.

UEFA is not just its president and Executive Committee, even if it is they you must take the decisions at the end of the day.

UEFA is a large family whose policy is “football first”, one of the 11 values which I presented to the congress and which received the unanimous support of all delegates.

This unanimity on the key principles that should guide our work is quite clearly a solid foundation from which to take up, together, the challenges that await us in the months ahead. For this reason, the UEFA Congress in Copenhagen really was an important event for our organisation.



**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

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## COVER

The UEFA Champions League is reaching its climax, with the final in Rome on 27 May. Ariel Ibagaza of Villarreal shields the ball from Arsenal's Alexandre Song in the first leg of the quarter-finals.

Photo: Getty Images

# Ordinary UEFA Congress in Copenhagen

## New faces on the Executive Committee



**THE 33RD ORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS TOOK PLACE AT THE BELLA CENTER IN COPENHAGEN ON 25 MARCH UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UEFA PRESIDENT, MICHEL PLATINI, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FIFA PRESIDENT, JOSEPH S. BLATTER, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER FOOTBALL CONFEDERATIONS, UEFA HONORARY MEMBERS, THE DELEGATES OF UEFA'S MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS.**

After a minute's silence in memory of the members of the football family who had passed away since the last UEFA Congress in Zagreb, the UEFA president opened the proceedings by presenting a review of the first two years of his presidency, mentioning the many achievements, from the resumption of dialogue with FIFA to closer relations with the European Union institutions, as well as the restructuring of the UEFA club competitions and the expansion of the European Football Championship final round.

*"This balance sheet shows, I hope, that I have managed to keep my*

*main promises, thanks to you and to the Executive Committee... Such a balance sheet particularly enables us to see what has not yet been accomplished and to realise that we still face many challenges!",* he said.

### Four priorities

The UEFA president then singled out the four challenges that he considered priorities for the months ahead.

■ **EURO 2012:** *"It is a decision that we must and want to implement ... because this European Championship final round is a message of hope, an investment in the future,*

*a sign of openness and a fantastic challenge."*

■ **Financial fair play:** *"We have decided to create a club financial control panel, which will begin its activities later this year. And this is just the first step, since we will be studying, with you and your clubs, stricter rules aimed at guaranteeing the integrity of our competitions."*

■ **Transfer of minors:** *"It is for moral and ethical reasons that we must succeed in persuading the political institutions to allow us to prohibit the international transfer of under-18s."*

■ **Betting:** *"Illegal betting can kill our sport. If results are fixed in advance, football has no further reason to exist. This is why, as we wait for the public authorities to fully grasp the situation and deal with it properly – because these, we should remember, are criminal activities – the UEFA Executive Committee has decided to set*

## Opening addresses

Carina Christensen, Denmark's minister of culture, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Danish government. She announced that



2009 was the Year of Sport in Denmark and that the UEFA Congress was one of the key events taking place there during the year. She also stressed the impor-

tance of football in Danish society and said that although the sports movement most often knew what was best for it, there were nevertheless also issues that it could not solve by itself, for example doping and match-fixing.

Her words were echoed by the FIFA president, **Joseph S. Blatter**, who began his address by stressing the importance of the autonomy of sport and the threats posed to it by interference from different directions: *"What would happen to sport if, all over*



*the world, supranational organisations were to interfere in it directly? Leave sport, leave football alone,"* he said, adding that there were, however, *"areas where sport needed the political authorities,"* citing corruption, doping and financial fair play as examples.

Concluding his address, the FIFA president called for solidarity: *"The economic crisis is affecting everyone. The second wave will affect all of us, and solidarity is called for (...) Football is a means of integrating people and bringing them closer together (...) We can make the world a better place, with your help."*

**Allen Hansen**, president of the Danish Football Association, highlighted the importance of football in his country, where, with 1,600 clubs and 300,000 players, including 61,000 women, it was the most popular sport by far.



He also mentioned that the Danish FA had been a founding member of UEFA and that its first president, Ebbe Schwartz (1954–62), had been a Dane.



The general secretary, David Taylor, presented a positive financial outlook for the years ahead.

UEFA-pl/woods.ch

*up a fraud prevention and detection system.*

*"One thing is certain ... UEFA will provide you with an effective tool. It will then be up to you to persuade your public authorities to tackle the problem head-on because we need to cooperate with the courts and the police if we are to eradicate this problem for good."*

The president closed his address by listing 11 principles that could *"help us to reaffirm our values in these troubled times"* and which should *"represent a useful basis for our future discussions with the political, economic, social and sporting worlds,"* (see below). These principles

received the unanimous support of the member associations.

The congress then approved the reports of the UEFA president, Executive Committee and administration for 2007/08, a year that stood out for the resounding success of EURO 2008.

### Sound financial situation

That success certainly contributed to the satisfactory financial situation that Marios N. Lefkaritis, UEFA vice-president and chairman of the Finance Committee, was able to present. Although the general economic context is no cause for celebration, on the whole the financial fore-

## The 11 guidelines

### 1 ● Football first

*In everything that we do, football must always be the first and most important element that we take into consideration. Football is a game before being a product, a sport before being a market, a show before being a business.*

### 2 ● Pyramid structure and subsidiarity

*At international and European level, the autonomy of sport is reflected by the pyramid structure of football. FIFA, UEFA and the national associations work hand in hand, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity. This allows us to defend the interests of football in the best possible way.*

### 3 ● Unity and leadership

*UEFA does not act by dictat. We will continue to show strong leadership but operate in a spirit of consensus. In addition to the national associations, we will involve all stakeholders (leagues, clubs, players) in the decision-making process in European football, through the Professional Football Strategy Council in particular,*

*so that the Executive Committee can take the right decisions. And we will aim for closer relations with football fans, without whom there would be no professional game.*

### 4 ● Good governance and autonomy

*UEFA and its member associations are committed to good governance. Good governance means openness, democracy, transparency and responsibility. In this spirit, UEFA defends the autonomy of sports structures, so that football bodies – with national associations in the lead – are the ultimate decision-makers in matters concerning football, with no undue interference from governments.*

### 5 ● Grassroots football and solidarity

*Football is based on the grass roots, played everywhere by men and women, boys and girls. The top professional level is just the tip of the iceberg. UEFA will continue with and even strengthen solidarity, both to protect the future of football and to deliver the wider benefits that our*



The president, Michel Platini, presented UEFA's guiding principles.

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Danny Jordaan updated the congress on preparations for the FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

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cast (strategic financial outlook) for the period from 2008/09 to 2013/14, as presented by the UEFA general secretary, David Taylor, remains positive.

Under the financial part of the agenda, the 2007/08 accounts and 2009/10 budget were approved.

Brief reports on the activities of the UEFA standing committees during the period under review were presented, in video form.

Information was also provided about the HatTrick programme, which moved into its second cycle (2008–12) last year.

HatTrick II has three components: an investment programme, solidarity payments and an education

programme. Each national association can apply for EUR 2.5 million for investment projects and a maximum of EUR 1.3 million per year by way of solidarity payments. In addition, EUR 25 million is reserved for education, which includes KISS, the Knowledge and Information Sharing Scenario.

Since HatTrick II got under way, 47 investment projects have been approved for a total amount of EUR 50 million.

The most awaited moment of the afternoon was, of course, the elections for the UEFA Executive Committee. These were followed by the nomination of four honorary members.

## d i n g p r i n c i p l e s

*sport brings to society as a whole. And it is also because the strength of football lies in its grass roots that we have to preserve the local, regional and national identities of our game, always in accordance with the law.*

### 6 ● Youth protection and education

*As governing body of European football, UEFA has both a sporting and a moral responsibility. The international transfer of minors entails many risks. Let's not forget that players under the age of 18 are children or adolescents. We want to protect the future of children in football and stop them being uprooted to foreign countries when they are much too young.*

### 7 ● Sporting integrity and betting

*Betting is a source of funding but also a risk for football, especially to the integrity of competitions. It is only right that football obtains its fair share of income from betting. However, our primary focus must continue to be a total commitment to protecting sporting integrity and the proper*

*running of our competitions, in order to preserve the spirit of our game.*

### 8 ● Financial fair play and regularity of competitions

*UEFA supports fair play both on and off the pitch. Financial fair play means that clubs operate transparently and responsibly, to protect both sporting competition and the clubs themselves. Financial fair play means clubs not getting into a spiral of debt to compete with their rivals but rather competing with their own means, i.e. the resources they generate.*

### 9 ● National teams and clubs

*National team and club football are vital and complementary elements of football. UEFA will remain committed to ensuring that this balance is maintained and even strengthened, as the development of our game at national, European and international level depends on it.*

### 10 ● Respect

*Respect is a key principle of football. It implies respect for*

*the game, integrity, diversity, dignity, players' health, rules, the referee, opponents and supporters. Our message is clear: zero tolerance of racism, violence and doping. Football unites people and transcends differences. The colour of the skin is invisible under the jersey and for UEFA this will always be so. Racism and any other forms of discrimination will never be tolerated. UEFA will not tolerate violence either on the pitch or in the stands. Football must set an example.*

### 11 ● European sports model and specificity of sport

*UEFA is a European body and we remain totally committed to the European model of sport, a model characterised by promotion and relegation, the solidarity principle, as well as open competitions and opportunity for all. This is what sport – and especially football – is all about. We have to protect this model because sport is not a business like any other and we cannot allow it to be treated as such. We will continue to defend the specificity of sport and are convinced that our arguments will prevail for the good of football.*



Three UEFA honorary members attended the congress: (from left) Jean Fournet-Fayard, Gerhard Aigner and Lennart Johansson.

## Four new honorary members

**On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, as presented by the UEFA president, the UEFA Congress conferred the title of honorary member on four former members of the UEFA Executive Committee.**

**Per Omdal** (Norway) was elected to the Executive Committee in 1992 and held the office of vice-president from 1996 to 2007. He did not stand for re-election this year. He also served as a member of the FIFA Executive Committee from 1992 to 2002.



"My best memories," he said, "are from the ten years when I led the work of the EEAB [East European Assis-

*tance Bureau], which comprised ten national football associations that emerged from the break-up of the USSR, plus Albania. The situation was very difficult because we had to start from scratch in every area, such as grassroots football, TV contracts and transfers. Our joint efforts were fruitful, which was really rewarding."*

### **Viacheslav Koloskov** (Russia)

was elected to the UEFA Executive Committee in 1994 and was also on the FIFA Executive Committee, which he served as a vice-president from 1980 to 1996, then as a member from 1996 to 1998 and from 2000 to 2009. At the UEFA Congress in Copenhagen, he stood down from both committees.

"The right to represent Russia for 15 years on the Executive Committee," he said, "has been a great honour. During that time, I had the good fortune to work under the presidency of some outstanding personalities: Jacques Georges, Lennart Johansson and Michel Platini.

"I believe that UEFA's decision to hold a UEFA Champions League final and a UEFA Cup final in Moscow was a sign of its trust in the Russian Football Union. And I hope that Russia lived up to the expectations.



"Over the years, I have worked on different committees, in close cooperation with UEFA directors, and I would like to express my deep gratitude to them for the professionalism and loyalty that I have always enjoyed.

"My term of office as a UEFA Executive Committee member has expired, but my life in football will go on."

**Giangiorgio Spieß** (Switzerland) was elected as a member of the UEFA Executive Committee in 1994 and served three terms, up to 2007. He was then a co-opted member until last June.

"My fondest memories of my time on the Executive Committee are, without any doubt, of seeing children having a lovely time playing football at the mini-pitch inaugurations I attended."



### **Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder**

(Germany) joined the UEFA Executive Committee in 2000 and finished his second term this year. He served as a vice-president from 2007. He has also served two separate terms on the FIFA Executive Committee, from 1992 to 1998 and from 2002 to 2006.



"The years I spent on the Executive Committee were a very positive experience: we shared our views in open discussions. Worthy of mention is the fact that following the election of Michel Platini as UEFA president, relations with FIFA improved and we are now on the same wavelength."

■ Up to the congress in Copenhagen, there were 15 UEFA honorary members, including two honorary presidents, Jacques Georges † and Lennart Johansson, together with Gerhard Aigner, Hans Bangerter, Sandor Barcs, Egidius Braun, Des Casey, Jos. Coler †, José Crahay †, Jean Fournet-Fayard, Artemio Franchi †, Sir Bert Millichip †, Sir Stanley Rous †, Nikolay Ryashentsev † and Lucien Schmidlin †.

## IN BRIEF

■ All 53 UEFA member associations were represented at the 33rd Ordinary UEFA Congress.

■ In addition to Viacheslav Koloskov, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder and Per Omdal, one other member of the Executive Committee did not stand for re-election: Franco Carraro (Italy), who was elected in 2004.

■ For the first time, for the sake of transparency, the ballot papers were counted in the congress hall in view of the cameras, which showed the scrutineers at work on the giant screen.

■ Danny Jordaan, CEO of the 2010 World Cup Organising Committee, made a presentation on how preparations in South Africa were progressing. It was a timely presentation, given that the qualifiers resumed a couple of days later.

■ The FIFA Ordinary Congress will take place in Nassau in the Bahamas on 2/3 June. On 1 June, UEFA member associations will hold a preparatory meeting.

■ Tel Aviv will be the venue for the 34th Ordinary UEFA Congress on 25 March 2010.



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## Amicale des anciens and Order of Merit

Among the guests at the congress in Copenhagen were many members of the Amicale des anciens (circle of former UEFA committee members). Members have to have served on UEFA committees for at least 12 years and no longer be in active service.

In Copenhagen, seven committee members were honoured for having achieved 12 years of service on UEFA committees:

- Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland), David Collins (Wales), Jacques Liénard (France), Michal Listkiewicz (Poland), Vlatko Markovic (Croatia), Volker Roth (Germany) and Rudolf Zavrl (Slovenia).

On the awards side, the UEFA Order of Merit was conferred on:

- Leszek Rylski (Poland) and Victor Ponedelnik (Russia) – Order of Merit in ruby

- Nodar Akhalkatsi Sr (Georgia, posthumously), Eddie Barry (Northern Ireland), Eduard Malofeev (Belarus), Ante Pavlovic (Croatia) and Sir Bobby Robson (England) – Order of Merit



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Michel Platini presents an Order of Merit in ruby to Leszek Rylski, member of the UEFA Executive Committee from 1956 to 1964 and from 1966 to 1968.

## Seven new faces on the Executive Committee

As a result of the four members retiring, the death of Mathieu Sprengers and the increase in membership from 14 to 16, the UEFA Executive Committee was set for a significant injection of new blood.

There were 12 candidates for the 9 seats available and it took only one ballot for eight of them to achieve an absolute majority (27 votes or more):

- Marios Lefkaritis (Cyprus, standing for re-election), 50 votes
- Theo Zwanziger (Germany), 47 votes
- Giancarlo Abete (Italy), 45 votes
- Geoffrey Thompson (England, standing for re-election), 43 votes
- Allan Hansen (Denmark), 40 votes,
- Frantisek Laurinec (Slovakia), 36 votes
- Michael van Praag (Netherlands), 34 votes
- Abraham Luzon (Israel), 28 votes

In the second ballot, requiring only a simple majority, Liutauras Varanavicius (Lithuania) received 22 votes, ahead of the three other candidates, Nodar Akhalkatsi (Georgia), Peter Rees (Wales) and Tomás Gea (Andorra).

The first eight are elected for four-year terms and the ninth for two years.



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Shortly after the congress, the new UEFA Executive Committee held a brief constitutive meeting, the outcome of which was as follows:

President: Michel Platini; first vice-president: Senes Erzik; second vice-president: Geoffrey Thompson; third vice-president: Angel María Villar Llona; fourth vice-president: Marios N. Lefkaritis; fifth vice-president: Joseph Mifsud. Members: Giancarlo Abete, Allan Hansen, Frantisek Laurinec, Abraham Luzon, Gilberto Madaíl, Mircea Sandu, Grigoriy Surkis, Liutauras Varanavicius, Michael van Praag and Theo Zwanziger.

## FIFA Executive Committee

The UEFA Congress delegates also had to elect four European members of the FIFA Executive Committee. Three of the outgoing members were standing for re-election:

Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium), Senes Erzik (Turkey) and Marios N. Lefkaritis (Cyprus).

Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia) had decided not to stand for re-election and his compatriot Vitaly Mutko was the only other candidate.

The congress therefore elected the four candidates by acclamation, each for four-year terms.



Marios Lefkaritis



Theo Zwanziger



Giancarlo Abete



Geoffrey Thompson



Allan Hansen



Frantisek Laurinec



Michael van Praag



Abraham Luzon



Liutauras Varanavicius



Everything is set for a fantastic football festival.

Getty Images



Streubel/Bongartz/Getty Images

## THE GROUPS

The draw, which took place in Leipzig on 3 April, produced the following groups:

**Group A:** Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland;

**Group B:** Germany, Turkey, England, Netherlands.



# European Under-17 Championship final round in Germany

## Test of strength for top European talent

**THE 15 MATCHES OF THE EUROPEAN UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL ROUND WILL BE HELD IN 12 STADIUMS IN SAXONY, SAXONY-ANHALT AND THURINGIA FROM 6 TO 18 MAY.**

Following the conclusion of the qualifying matches in March, the schedule of matches to be played in the host cities of Dessau-Rosslau, Erfurt, Gera, Gotha, Grimma, Jena, Magdeburg, Markranstädt, Meuselwitz, Sandersdorf, Taucha and Torgau was announced in the city hall in Leipzig on 3 April, exactly 33 days before the opening match on 6 May.

Leaving organisational matters to one side, the DFB's sports director, Matthias Sammer, emphasised the sporting aspects of the tournament: "When we take part in a final round which we are organising ourselves, we are fully focused on winning the European Championship title. This is an ideal opportunity for our youngsters to measure themselves against the best teams in Europe."

### Fantastic football festival

The draw ceremony at the city hall included a performance by the Gewandhaus Kinderchor, one of Germany's most famous and successful children's choirs. Senior UEFA and DFB officials were among the 150 guests of honour.

"We are delighted to be able to host this important international youth tournament. Our experience of organising major sports events will certainly help us to provide the teams and officials from the participating associations with the best possible conditions in the 12 host cities, ensuring a fantastic football festival," said the president of the DFB, Theo Zwanziger.

Following the draw, a workshop was held to inform the participating teams about the organisational details of the final tournament. Visits to the team hotels, training grounds and stadiums were also on the agenda.

### Football without boundaries

Under the motto "Fussball kennt keine Grenzen" (football knows no boundaries), the schools programme has already begun in the three states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. Around 600 schools have requested the free project kit, which includes a wide range of activities based on the themes of football, fair play and tolerance. The DFB has prepared a special offer for the schools by scheduling a total of seven matches to take place in the morning so that as many classes as possible can attend a European Championship match on a school outing.

"We also want to ensure that the many children and young spectators who attend this event see for themselves how football can have an impact that goes far beyond sport itself, how it can bring together people from different social groups, how it stands for peaceful coexistence and how it helps to promote values such as respect, fair play and consideration of others," said the DFB president.

As far as the extensive preparatory work was concerned, Theo Zwanziger also mentioned the commitment of the numerous volunteers: "Without the support of these people, such a tournament could not be held. I would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to all those involved in the organisation of this event and showing such extraordinary commitment for their enthusiasm and their important contribution."

At the start of May, the organisers from UEFA and the DFB will begin moving into their accommodation in the two tournament centres, Leipzig and Jena. The eight participating national associations will also be based in these two cities, ready to appear on the European youth football stage.

Stephan Eiermann



Getty Images

Children from schools in the area are using the finals as an opportunity to broaden their horizons.



Pitchside observations...



... and classroom presentations.

# 8th UEFA Grassroots Workshop in Hamburg

## Children's football as central pillar

**IF ONE WORD HAD TO BE CHOSEN TO SUMMARISE THE 8TH UEFA GRASSROOTS WORKSHOP WHICH WAS HELD FROM 16 TO 20 MARCH IN HAMBURG, IT WOULD SURELY BE ENERGY – WITH A CAPITAL E. FROM THE MOMENT THE BALL WAS SET ROLLING BY GERHARD MAYER-VORFELDER, UEFA VICE-PRESIDENT, THEO ZWANZIGER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AND KARIN VON WELCK, SPORTS SENATOR FOR THE CITY OF HAMBURG, THE EVENT, INVOLVING 130 PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL 53 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, TOOK OFF LIKE A ROLLER COASTER, RUNNING AT BREATHTAKING SPEED, UPLIFTING ENOUGH TO DEFY THE LAWS OF GRAVITY. THE SHEER IMPETUS REFLECTED THE FAST-GROWING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL, NOT ONLY TO THE SPORT ITSELF, BUT ALSO TO THE SOCIETY IT LIVES IN.**

In terms of enthusiasm, the hosts led by example – with the national and regional associations contributing, together with the two major clubs in the city of Hamburg. The Grand Elysée hotel was the focal point for presentations and discussions, but Hamburger SV's stadium was the venue for practical sessions on the opening afternoon, with groups of Under-12s providing best-practice examples of age-appropriate training sessions. The venue on the following day was the St. Pauli club, whose special personality was illustrated by the motto at the entrance to the stadium: Non Established Since 1910. The sessions dovetailed perfectly. The boys and girls at St. Pauli might not have been able to match the HSV boys for technical excellence but they certainly matched them in terms of enjoyment. The first session featured Under-10 girls from the city's migrant communities, whose parents needed to be persuaded to allow their daughters to take part. This was not about talent development – it was about using football as an instrument for social integration.

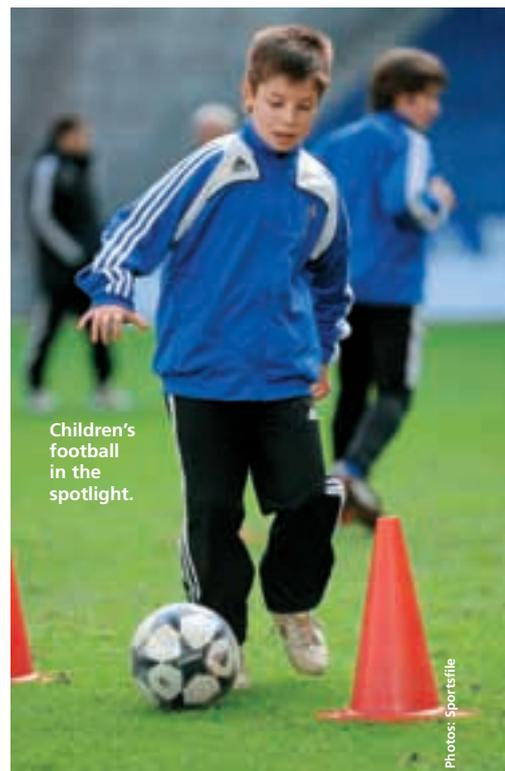
### Focus on enjoyment

The fact that the practical sessions focused on such a young age group was no accident. The roller-coaster event pointed its nose in every conceivable direction but it turned around a central pillar: children's football. UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, set the scene by examining all aspects of 'child's play' on the opening morning, emphasising the need to focus on enjoyment of the game in age brackets where football should be 'serious fun' with, in this case, 'serious' being the opposite to frivolous.

This was underlined when Willi Hink described the development plan launched in Germany in 2007 and when former international star Steffi Jones, who now presides the organising committee for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, explained how the big event will be used as a social lever to persuade even more girls to play football.

But the workshop covered the whole spectrum. Piet Hubers, for

example, revealed the Dutch plan to promote football for the 45+ age group. Jeff Davis of the English FA led a review of how disability football is being developed in various countries. Jim Fleeting of Scotland discussed funding issues – including a fascinating insight into how the Scottish authorities are even supporting grassroots projects. The relationships between professional clubs and the grassroots game were reviewed by Jörn Spuida, Roger Hasenbein and Roberto Samaden of HSV, St. Pauli and FC Internazionale Milano respectively. There was even time for former German internationals Uwe Seeler and Hansi Müller to discuss their experiences as child players and their current roles as ambassadors within the grassroots game. Andy Roxburgh signed off by reviewing the astonishing progress made since UEFA first started to develop a grassroots programme 14 years ago, including the Grassroots Charter, which already has 37 signatories. But that's another story. The sheer energy of the event in Hamburg graphically illustrated the momentum of the grassroots game and its increasing relevance in a cosmopolitan Europe.



Children's football in the spotlight.

Photos: Sportsfile



PA Archives/PA Photos

Leeds United beat Juventus to win the final Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.



PA Archives/PA Photos

The first UEFA Cup final was an all-English showdown, won by Tottenham Hotspur.



# Origins of the UEFA Cup

Hans Bangerter reminisces

**THE UEFA CUP IS IN ITS FINAL SEASON BEFORE IT IS RENAMED THE UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE AND GIVEN A NEW FORMAT, INCLUDING A PHASE OF 12 GROUPS OF FOUR, WITH ALL MEDIA RIGHTS MARKETED CENTRALLY.**

Although significant, the changes – which are designed to give new impetus to the competition – are less radical than those that took place at the beginning of the 1970s, when the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup was abolished and replaced with the UEFA Cup.

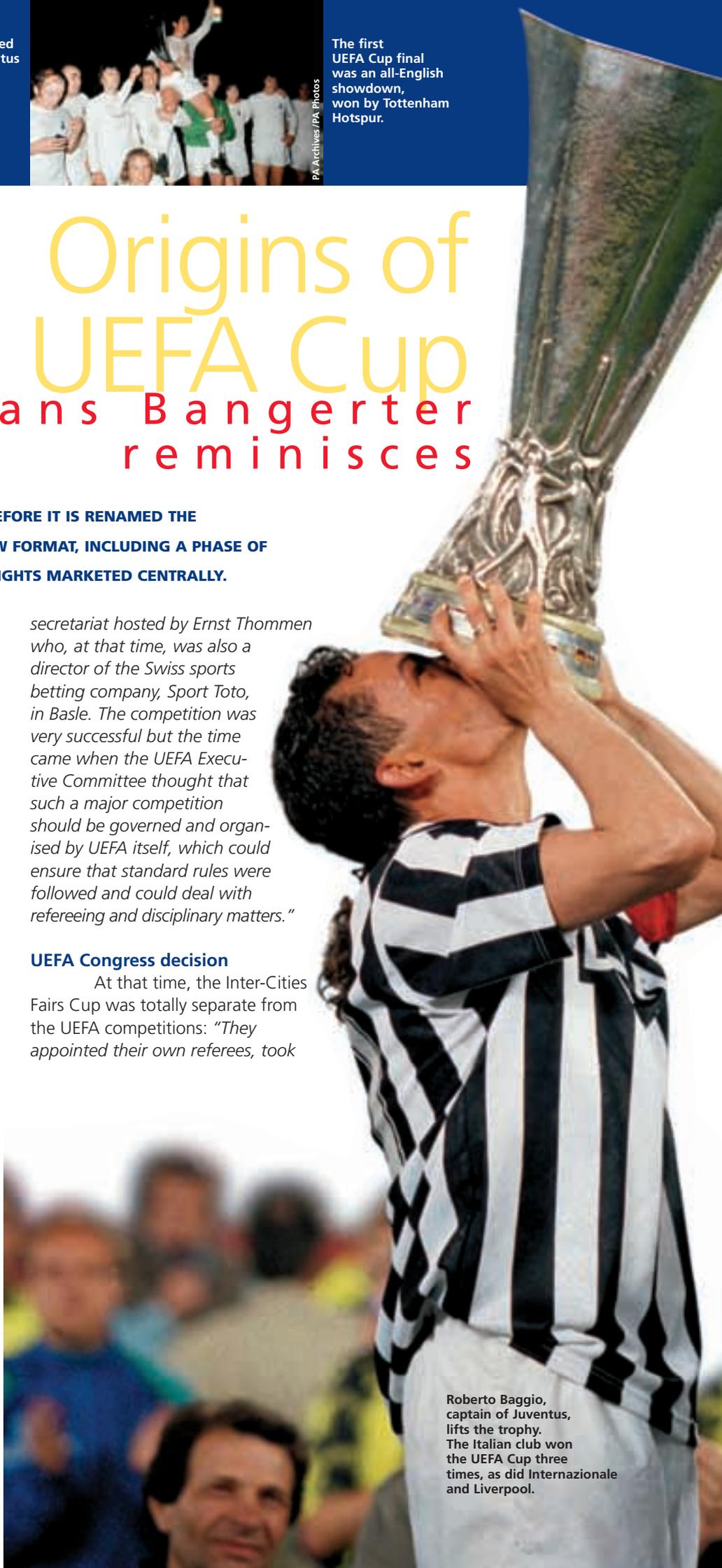
Swiss Hans Bangerter, UEFA general secretary from 1960 to 1988, is probably the only surviving, primary witness of those changes. He recalls: *“The Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, which was created in 1955, was the most important international club competition apart from the UEFA competitions, i.e. the European Champion Clubs’ Cup and the European Cup Winners’ Cup. It had an organising committee composed of eminent people such as Ernst Thommen, the competition’s founding chairman, who at the time was president of the Swiss Football Association, FIFA vice-president and chairman of the World Cup organising committee. He was joined by Sir Stanley Rous, the very powerful secretary of the English FA, UEFA vice-president and member of the World Cup organising committee, Italy’s Ottorino Barassi and six or seven representatives of major clubs from cities in which important trade fairs were held.*

*With such people at the helm, the competition was clearly well organised, with a permanent*

*secretariat hosted by Ernst Thommen who, at that time, was also a director of the Swiss sports betting company, Sport Toto, in Basle. The competition was very successful but the time came when the UEFA Executive Committee thought that such a major competition should be governed and organised by UEFA itself, which could ensure that standard rules were followed and could deal with refereeing and disciplinary matters.”*

### UEFA Congress decision

At that time, the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup was totally separate from the UEFA competitions: *“They appointed their own referees, took*



Roberto Baggio, captain of Juventus, lifts the trophy. The Italian club won the UEFA Cup three times, as did Internazionale and Liverpool.



Hans Bangerter at the inauguration of the UEFA offices in Berne in 1976, with Artemio Franchi, then UEFA president (left) and Carl Zimmermann, long-standing member, then chairman of the UEFA Youth Committee.



Talking to South Africa's Danny Jordaan at the congress in Copenhagen

*disciplinary measures and managed everything themselves... There was no coordination with our competitions. We therefore thought that this could not last."* The 1966 Ordinary UEFA Congress in London agreed, albeit only by a narrow margin (11-10), and the 1968 Congress in Rome ratified the decision. However, it took a while for the baton to be handed over. *"Finally, with the support of Sir Stanley Rous, who had by now been elected FIFA president and also chaired the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup Committee, we came to an agreement. And I remember the last meeting of the Fairs Cup Committee, which was held in Barcelona. UEFA had been invited to send a representative to this final meeting and the Executive Committee asked me to go. I received a polite but rather frosty welcome. Sir Stanley Rous, who had many other important responsibilities, had little problem in handing over the task of chairing the committee, but some of the other members were not exactly thrilled to be losing a position that, when all is said and done, was quite a nice one to have. We kept one or two of them in our committees to iron out some of the difficulties and, in the end, everything went smoothly."*

### The trophy for Barcelona

The 13th and final edition of the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup was therefore held in 1970/71, before the competition was replaced with a brand new one, the UEFA Cup. *"We changed its name, increased the*

*number of clubs and even produced a new trophy."* The old trophy was kept by FC Barcelona, since it was decided that it should be presented to the winner of a match between the first winners, Barcelona, and the last, Leeds United. The match, played in Barcelona on 22 September 1971, was won 2-1 by the home side.

Wolverhampton Wanderers and Tottenham Hotspur contested the first UEFA Cup final in 1972. That final will have been followed by 37 subsequent editions by the time this year's final has been staged in Istanbul. In the meantime, the UEFA Cup absorbed the Cup Winners' Cup in 1999, but that is another story that will be told in a future article.

## A long career in the service of football

*"I was lucky enough to make a living out of my hobby!"* At nearly 85 years of age, Hans Bangerter remains as enthusiastic about football as he was in his youth. *"Since there were no clubs where I lived when I was a boy, I founded one for schoolboys!"* On finishing his studies, Hans Bangerter joined the administration of the Swiss federal gymnastics and sports school in Macolin. His knowledge of languages meant that he was given the task of welcoming foreign visitors and it was this that brought him into contact with football's great leaders of the time, Sir Stanley Rous, Ottorino Barassi and P.J. Bauwens, who visited Macolin. *"It was they who invited me to work at FIFA, and so, in 1953, I became FIFA deputy general secretary in Zurich and was involved in organising the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland, among other things. I stayed at FIFA for seven years. In 1959, UEFA decided they needed a permanent secretariat. They had offices in Paris at the headquarters of the French Football Federation and Pierre Delaunay was splitting his time between the FFF and UEFA, where he was general secretary at the time. He had to choose between the two institutions and opted for the FFF. I was therefore offered the post, which I accepted, but I requested that the secretariat be based in Switzerland."*



UEFA-pjwoods.ch

Hans Bangerter retired in 1988 and was made an honorary member of UEFA at the 1992 Congress. He is also an honorary member of the Swiss Football Association and has been awarded the FIFA Order of Merit. He continues to follow football closely: *"The changes have been enormous. Clearly, commercialisation is necessary because our lives have changed completely, but this commercialisation must not become more important than the sport itself. I have always said that the sport must always take priority."* A view that tallies perfectly with the first of the 11 principles set out by Michel Platini at the recent UEFA Congress in Copenhagen: football first. With regard to the current UEFA president, the former general secretary says he is *"pleased that former players are assuming management responsibilities because they have lived and breathed football, they know all its ins and outs, all the side issues. Football needs people who know fully the game, not leaders who want at first to use it to make a name for themselves."*





The Executive Committee in Copenhagen.



It was Franco Carraro's last Executive Committee meeting.

# Meetings and other activities

## Integrity of competitions top of the agenda

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S SECOND MEETING OF THE YEAR, HELD IN COPENHAGEN ON 23/24 MARCH, MARKED THE END OF AN ERA FOR FOUR OF ITS MEMBERS, FRANCO CARRARO, VIACHESLAV KOLOSKOV, GERHARD MAYER-VORFELDER AND PER RAVN OMDAL, WHO ALL LEFT OFFICE.**

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, opened the meeting by thanking them for the time and effort that they had given in service of UEFA and symbolically presented them with a key to the House of European Football, assuring them that they would always be welcome there. He also paid tribute to the two co-opted members whose mandates had come to an end, Giangiorgio Spiess and Friedrich Stickler.

Michel Platini then presented an 11-point manifesto, which is meant to serve as a plan of action and to which the Executive Committee gave its full backing (see pages 4/5).

### Increased solidarity payments

The participants then heard reports from the committee chairmen and took a number of decisions based on their proposals. They particularly discussed the regulations of the UEFA club competitions which, as is widely known, are being revamped for next season. In this context, the Executive Committee had invited a representative of the clubs to its meeting for the first time. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chairman of the European Club Association (ECA), was therefore able to present the points of view of the 137 clubs affiliated to the ECA.

Referring to the distribution of revenue from the UEFA Champions League, he said that the clubs supported the proposal to increase the

solidarity payments to clubs who were not participating in the competition from 5 to 6.5%. These funds should be used for training purposes. Further-

more, the solidarity payments made to clubs eliminated in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League qualifying rounds would be increased by around 30%.

The revenue distribution system was approved, along with the regulations of the Champions League, Europa League and Super Cup for the 2009/10 season.

### Integrity of competitions

With regard to financial fair play in the UEFA club competitions, an important step was taken with the creation of the Club Financial Control Panel. Composed of independent financial and legal experts to be appointed by the Executive Committee (a chairman and up to eight members), this body will be responsible for ensuring, via financial audits, that

## Referees and grassroots football

### Signing ceremonies in Copenhagen

On the eve of the Ordinary UEFA Congress in Copenhagen, seven national associations signed the UEFA Referee Convention: the Faroe Islands, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden.

The convention now has 20 signatories and another 30 associations have submitted applications.

Another charter signed in the Danish capital was the UEFA Grassroots Charter. The national associations of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Italy and Slovenia have taken the number of signatories to 37. These four associations have been awarded their first of a maximum seven stars. There are currently 8 associations on five stars, 2 on four, 1 on three, 3 on two and 23 on one.



The Grassroots Charter signatories with UEFA representatives.



Manchester United v Porto in the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals. The competition regulations for the 2009/10 season were approved by the UEFA Executive Committee in Copenhagen.

Empics Sport/PA Photos



## News from Brussels

On 10 March, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the integrity of online gambling which calls on the member states, betting operators and sports organisations to cooperate and together take up the challenges posed by the liberalisation of this sector.

The basis for the resolution is criminal activities associated with gambling and the impact these have on the integrity of sports events. In the words of the parliament, *"if a sport is perceived as the subject of manipulation for the financial gain of players, officials or third parties rather than played according to its values, rules and for the enjoyment of its fans, this could result in a loss of public trust."*

To counter this threat, the resolution calls on EU member states to *"ensure that sports competition organisers, betting operators and regulators cooperate on measures to tackle the risks related to illegal betting behaviour and match-fixing in sport and explore the establishment of a workable, equitable and sustainable regulatory framework to protect the integrity of sports."*

Much to the delight of sports associations, the resolution also recommends that member states protect sports competitions from any unauthorised commercial use and calls on the European Commission *"to examine whether it is possible to give competition organisers an intellectual property right (some sort of 'portrait right') over their competitions."*

The parliament strongly recommends using profits from gambling *"for the benefit of society, including rolling funding for (...) professional and amateur sport and culture."*

The resolution was tabled by Danish socialist MEP Christel Schaldemose.

licences have been correctly awarded to clubs and that the clubs have met their obligations under the UEFA Club Licensing Regulations.

Also with the integrity of competitions in mind, the Executive Committee heard an update on the measures it had taken to combat illegal betting and match-fixing. A fraud detection system had been set up which would not only monitor betting linked to UEFA competitions, but would also gradually increase its scope to cover all matches in the top two divisions and national cup matches of all UEFA member associations. Under the new system, some 27,000 matches will be monitored each year in cooperation with betting agencies from all over the world, leading to the creation of a huge database.

With these measures in mind and in order to bolster UEFA's disciplinary services, the Executive Committee appointed two new specialist disciplinary inspectors.

### Draw in Warsaw

The Executive Committee was informed of the state of progress of the preparatory work for UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine. It was told that the draw to determine the qualifying groups would be held at the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw on 7 February 2010.

As far as competitions are concerned, the Executive Committee also approved the regulations of the 2009/10 UEFA Futsal Cup and heard a report on the first European Under-21 Futsal Tournament, which had been organised on an experimental basis.

Another set of regulations that was approved were for the 2009/10 Women's Champions League, which will

replace the UEFA Women's Cup with a new format. The final will be played as a single match on neutral territory in the same week and the same city as the UEFA Champions League final. In addition, the eight best associations will be entitled to enter two teams and the competition will begin with a qualifying round played in the form of mini-tournaments. This round will be directly followed by knockout matches from the round of 32 until the final.

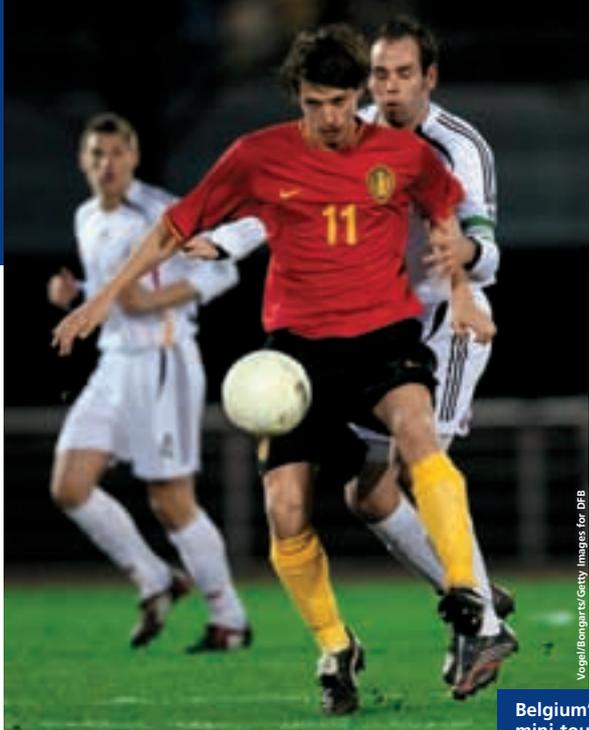
The Executive Committee was also informed that the final round of the 2008/09 Regions' Cup would be played in Croatia from 15 to 22 June.

### Memorandum of understanding with professional leagues

The Executive Committee also gave its backing to the signature of a new memorandum of understanding between UEFA and the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL).

With regard to social responsibility, it noted the conclusions of an analysis of the campaigns linked to UEFA EURO 2008 (Score for the Red Cross, fan embassies, EUROSCHOOLS, etc.) and heard recommendations for UEFA's future activities in this field.

■ In Copenhagen, the Executive Committee gave its full backing to FIFA's position on out-of-competition anti-doping tests and the need for individual players to announce their daily whereabouts. FIFA and UEFA believe that a distinction must be made between team and individual sports and ask that footballers be tested within the scope of the team and within the stadium infrastructure – and not, under any circumstances, during their short holiday periods.



Vegim/Bongarts/Getty Images for DFB



Dusan Cetic

Football (Almami Morereira, left) and basketball (Slavko Vranes) unite against racism at FK Partizan.

Belgium's Kempen (Glenn van Asten, in red) won their mini-tournament in Germany to earn a place in the final round of the UEFA Regions' Cup.

## Eight finalists heading to Croatia

**In the UEFA Regions' Cup, the intermediate round is over and we now know which eight teams are going through to the finals, which are being held in the Zagreb area of Croatia.**



The amateur clubs of Privolzhie (Russia), Oltenia (Romania), Bratislava (Slovakia), Savez Gradiska (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Region I (Republic of Ireland), Kempen (Belgium) and Castilla y Leon (Spain) join Zagreb (Croatia) for the final round of the competition.

The final draw takes place in Tuheljske Toplice on 23 April.

## German-Russian UEFA Women's Cup final

**The eighth UEFA Women's Cup final is a landmark occasion. A Russian team has reached the final of the competition for the first time, where they face German opposition.**



The achievements of Russia's Zvezda-2005 – who are from Perm but, without a stadium that meets the UEFA criteria, had to play their home quarter and semi-finals some 500km away in Kazan – are all the more remarkable considering this is their first

time in a UEFA Women's Cup. What is more, Zvezda's journey began in the first qualifying round and, in their ten matches so far, they have won nine and lost none, even against heavyweight opponents such as title-holders and three-time champions FFC Frankfurt, Brøndby IF and Umeå IK, finalists four times and winners twice.

In the semi-finals, Sweden's Umeå did all they could in the return leg to recover the two goals they conceded in the first leg in Russia. They opened the scoring but Zvezda came back to equalise. It was the same story when Umeå made it 2-1. For Umeå the adventure ended there, the only consolation being that no



Olympique Lyonnais and FC R 2001 Duisburg battle it out in the semi-finals.

Flash Press



Hungary is hosting the final round of the European Futsal Championship.

Sportsfile



Spain's Xavi Hernandez donates a cheque for EUR 100,000 to the ICRC.

Getty Images



Bongarts/Getty Images

The German Football Association takes a stand against racism.

one else had managed to hold Zvezda even to a draw.

In the final, Zvezda meet other UEFA Women's Cup debutantes, FCR 2001 Duisburg. The German side only entered the competition in the second qualifying round, but their record over seven matches is just as impressive with six wins and one draw. It was in the first leg of their semi-final in Lyon that Duisburg were held to a draw (1-1), but they came back with a 3-1 win at home.

The first leg of the final is in Russia on 16 May. The two teams then meet in Duisburg on 22 May. This is the last time the final will be played on a home and away basis – next season the competition will have a new format, under the new name of UEFA Women's Champions League.

## European Futsal Championship – First final round with twelve teams

The final round of the 2009/10 European Futsal Championship takes place in Hungary and, for the first time, there are 12 finalists.



Hungary, who qualify automatically as hosts, found out who they would be up against when the qualifying matches were completed in mid-March.

Ukraine, Spain, the Czech Republic, Italy, Belgium, Portugal and Russia won the qualifying mini-tournaments and will be joined in Hungary by the best four runners-up, Belarus, Serbia, Azerbaijan and Slovenia.

The final draw is being held at the Kölcsey Convention Centre, Debrecen, on 24 September. The 12 teams will be divided into four groups. The final tournament takes place from 19 to 30 January.

## Football and social responsibility

According to Senes Erzik, a UEFA vice-president and chairman of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, "social responsibility must be written in UEFA's DNA".



After the Unite Against Racism conference in Warsaw in early March, UEFA has continued pursuing many activities

in the field of social responsibility, one of which was Earth Hour, organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on 28 March. This consisted in turning off all lights as a mark of awareness of climate change and the need to preserve the environment.

Also, at the UEFA Champions League quarter-final between FC Barcelona and Olympique Lyonnais on 10 March, UEFA presented a EUR 100,000 cheque to Xavi Hernandez, captain of the uefa.com users' Team of the Year. Xavi donated the money to the Score for the Red Cross campaign,

launched at EURO 2008 in support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) rehabilitation project for landmine victims in Afghanistan.

In addition, UEFA is once again participating in the annual Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) football week, which takes place from 25 April to 3 May this year. A unified match between UEFA staff and Special Olympics players is being held on 27 April in Nyon.

Many of the member associations also have campaigns underway. In Belgium, for example, the "En un goal, de la rue à l'école" project (one goal, from street to school) has been launched in favour of children in Africa; in Germany, the football association showed racism the red card in March; the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL) organised a weekend against hunger; and clubs are following suit, with FK Partizan of Belgrade, for example, bringing footballers and basketball players together to say no to racism.



Football, a ray of light in a cloud of gloom, as depicted by Dix, a cartoonist at the anti-racism conference in Warsaw.



## AUSTRIA

• PETER KLINGLMÜLLER •

### New coaching teams

In March, Austria's head coach, Karel Brückner, and his assistant, Jan Kocian, stepped down in agreement with the Austrian Football Association. Brückner is succeeded by Dietmar Constantini (53) from the Tyrol. Constantini has previously worked as head coach of Austria Wien, Wacker Innsbruck and Mainz 05, as well as having assisted the legendary Ernst Happel at the helm of the national team. Constantini will be assisted by Manfred Zsak (Under-21 coach, capped 49 times for the senior team) and Heinz Peischl (previously head coach at FC St. Gallen). Germany's Mike Steverding has been appointed as the new fitness coach.



Austria's new technical team: (from left) Manfred Zsak, Dietmar Constantini, Heinz Peischl and Franz Wohlfahrt.

Andreas Herzog, Austria's record-holding ex-international, who has been on the senior team staff since 2005, is taking over the Under-21s, with Heimo Pfeifenberger (played for Werder Bremen) as his assistant, Roger Spry from England as fitness coach and Otto Konrad (UEFA Cup finalist with Austria Salzburg) as goalkeeping coach. ■



## AZERBAIJAN

• KONUL MEHTIEV •

### Seeking out young talent

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) organises various projects to strengthen and increase the popularity of youth football throughout the country and scout for players for its national youth teams. Championships are held in the different age categories and scouts work in each of the regions, seeking out talent.

In the capital, Baku, on 16 February, Azerbaijan's Under-15s coach, Oliver Pelzer, led the selection of 13 to 15-year-olds for



Talent-spotting.

his squad. The event was held at the Olympic national team training centre and attracted 200 children. The coaches singled out 11 promising players.

The AFFA plans to hold similar events in future. ■



## BELARUS

• YULIA ZENKOVICH •

### Annual general meeting

A new football season is about to kick off in Belarus. So, on 14 March the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) held its annual general meeting to review the results of the previous season and discuss achievements and things that could be improved. Several important decisions were taken too.

The special guest at the congress was Marios N. Lefkaritis, one of UEFA's vice-presidents. *"I think this visit to Belarus is my eighth. I must say that I have seen many improvements in all areas. Your federation makes excellent use of the funds provided by UEFA for building and renovating mini-pitches, artificial pitches and stadiums."*

Before the meeting got under way, the BFF president, Gennadiy Nevyglas, presented licences to the clubs that will be playing in the Vysshaya Liga (top division) of the national championship. Then the best football academy youth coaches were given well-deserved awards.

At the meeting, the BFF president gave a very thorough report about the situation in Belarusian football. He pointed out that a lot of work needed to be done to get spectators to the stadiums: *"We have to remember that marketing and advertising in football requires hard work every day. It is only by working on this every day that we will get more spectators coming to the stadiums."* On improving the level of refereeing, the president said: *"There is no doubt a lot of work needs to be done to improve this area."* He also stressed the importance of reducing to 12 the number of teams playing in the top division: *"The decision has been taken. There is no going back."*

A lot was said about financing. The head coach of the national A team, Bernd Stange (who was celebrating his birthday on the day of the meeting), gave a short but fundamental speech about how our football should develop: *"We want to play attractive, modern football. But we should understand that we must get to the top floor using the stairs and not the lift."*

With more than 100 participants at the meeting, an important resolution was adopted to take major steps to promote youth football. Youth sector funding is to be increased and more football academies created. Work with fans is also to be improved, in order to draw more spectators to the stands. Several other decisions are to be implemented in 2009. The participants left in good spirits, confident that the meeting was a positive start to the new football season. ■



The president, Gennadiy Nevyglas, presents his report to the meeting.



## BELGIUM

• PIERRE CORNEZ •

### Association wins fair play award

In Charleroi on 17 February, the Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) received a fair play award for its security officer project. The award was presented by Veerle Van Crombrugge on behalf of the home affairs minister, Guido De Padt.

The fair play award (or rather, credit) is in its third year. With it, the home affairs ministry provides an annual total of EUR 100,000 to subsidise social projects launched by members of the football family aiming to improve safety and security at matches.

A multidisciplinary committee was given the job of selecting this year's winning projects. Alongside the URBSFA, Belgian clubs KFC Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen, R. Charleroi SC, Oud-Heverlee Leuven, KAA Gent, SV Zulte Waregem, Club Brugge KV, K. Lierse SK and KRC Genk were singled out for awards.

The Belgian Football Association had already received a subsidy last season to help it produce a manual explaining what the role of the security officer entailed.

This season, the URBSFA has been given EUR 20,000, the maximum possible for a single fair play credit. This handsome sum, a welcome sign of recognition, will fund the next stage of the project, which



Raymond Hens, Nico De Pauw and Fernand Meese, all members of the URBSFA safety and security committee, with the fair play trophy.

involves sending security officers to various matches in different divisions.

Their role will be to provide information, advice and support to the organisers, with a view to preventing certain violations of Belgian football legislation and of related implementation directives and circulars. The security officer will under no circumstances take the place of the organiser's head of security and he will not take any operational decisions for the organisers or police.

The URBSFA is constantly working to improve security, both inside and outside football stadiums, and is delighted to see its efforts fully acknowledged. ■



## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

• FUAD KRVAVAC •

### Football development projects for young people

Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has always suffered from a shortage of pitches. Only two stadiums with additional pitches are available for many clubs. These are the Asim Ferhatovic Hase stadium (also known as the Olympic Stadium) in the district of Kosevo and NK Zeljeznicar's stadium in Grbavica. There is also a small stadium being built in the Otoka area. As well as the two premier league clubs, NK Zeljeznicar and FK Sarajevo, and the first division's FK Olimpik and NK SASK Napredak, many second division clubs and even ten cantonal league clubs rely on these pitches. Until a solution is found, all the teams face huge problems trying to organise training sessions and there is nowhere to hold youth competitions.

The artificial pitch built a year ago in the district of Kosevo and the other installed recently at the Grbavica stadium are now being used by youth teams. The honour of playing on these pitches for the first time was given to the capital's oldest clubs, Zeljeznicar and Pofalicki.

One of the most popular and oldest Bosnian football academies is the Bubamara in Sarajevo. This academy has recently started a project with Inter Milan to enable 90 children from socially deprived families to train for free. Other stakeholders in the project are the city of Sarajevo and the canton of Sarajevo's social services.

The project launch was announced at the Skenderija hall by Nenad Markovic,

deputy mayor of Sarajevo, Predrag Pasic, director of Bubamara, and Aldo Montinaro, representative of Inter Milan, in front of a hall full of children.

The city of Sarajevo will cover all the transport costs of the children attending the training sessions, Inter is providing all the equipment, and Bubamara has been appointed to hold the training sessions and lead the project implementation.

*"Children whose parents aren't able to pay club membership fees will be able to play thanks to this project. There are many boys who have a great talent waiting to be discovered. Thanks to such projects, many world-famous players have been discovered, such as Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and others,"* said Predrag Pasic, director of the academy and former player at FK Sarajevo and VfB Stuttgart. He was also capped for the Yugoslavian national team. ■



The artificial pitch in Grbavica



## CROATIA

• ANTE PAVLOVIC •

### Exciting competition

The Croatian Football Federation (CFF) has a successful year behind it. Progress has been made in every field of activity. This was the delegates' assessment at the CFF annual general meeting. Also at this meeting, the CFF statutes were brought into line with UEFA's. In the ceremonial part of the meeting, certificates were presented in recognition of various UEFA Summer of Grassroots activities. They were awarded by Mircea Sandu, a UEFA Executive Committee member, to the Zagreb rehabilitation centre (best disabled football event), Medjimurje county football association (best veterans football event), Varazdin county football association (best grassroots futsal event) and the Zagreb county football association (most valuable grassroots football event). Yearly awards known as *Trofej podmlatka* – the highest honour in Croatian football – were also presented.

The latter stages of the Croatian first and second division championships have become very interesting. In the first division FC Dinamo Zagreb and FC Hajduk Split have equal chances of finishing on top. These two clubs will also meet in the final of the Croatian Cup. The stakes have been raised by new opportunities to enter the



Zlatko Matesa, chairman of the Croatian Olympic committee, between Mircea Sandu, member of the UEFA Executive Committee (right), and Vlatko Markovic, president of the Croatian Football Federation.

European club competitions: four Croatian clubs now go through.

The Croatian first division has also been enlarged from 12 to 16 clubs, with half of this season's second division clubs competing for the extra places. The club licensing department is reviewing assessment reports and decisions are eagerly awaited.

The Croatian Football Federation is grateful to UEFA for entrusting it with the organisation of the 2009 UEFA Region's Cup final tournament in June. Eight finalists will be playing at different football centres in the Zagreb area. The CFF cares a great deal about amateur football and expects the tournament to help to reaffirm this.

Drazen Ladic, Croatia's illustrious former international goalkeeper, has been chosen to lead the Croatian Under-21s for another two-year period. We look forward with excitement to his talented young players' first qualifying match. ■



## CYPRUS

• KYRIAKOS GIORGALLIS •

### Tournaments and seminars

Once again, Cyprus was one of the most popular winter destinations for major European clubs and national sides to fine-tune their teams ahead of UEFA competitions.

The Cyprus FA itself organised its 12th international tournament for national A teams between 9 and 12 February with great success. Football fans had the opportunity, on two matchdays, to watch high-level football with the national team of Ukraine eventually winning the tournament by beating Serbia 1-0 in the final. In the



Ukraine won the international tournament in Cyprus.

opening games, Serbia beat Cyprus 2–0 and Ukraine beat Slovakia 3–2. In the third-place play-off, Cyprus beat Slovakia 3–2.

The elite of women's football were also present in Cyprus this winter, with 4 of the 12 UEFA Women's EURO 2009 contenders measuring their strength ahead of the August finals in Finland. From 5 March and for a whole week, England, the Netherlands, France, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, New Zealand and last year's titleholders, Canada, took part in the second Cyprus Women's Cup. In the final in Nicosia on 12 March, England beat reigning champions Canada 3–1 to lift the trophy.

Grassroots development has been one of our highest priorities over the last few years and the Cyprus FA is once again organising various grassroots tournaments in the Under-8, Under-10 and Under-11 categories (60 teams in each age group playing five-a-side matches), as well as an Under-12 tournament for 22 nine-a-side teams. All these grassroots tournaments are in progress and are expected to finish by the end of May.

Prior to this, the Cyprus FA, in cooperation with the national referee and referee observer associations, successfully organised two seminars. The main speaker at both seminars was Jaap Uilenberg, a former FIFA referee and current member of the UEFA Referees Committee. During the referees' seminar, Jaap Uilenberg covered many topics on the Laws of the Game using footage from EURO 2008 matches. At the second seminar he supplied our referee observers with all the necessary information and guidelines to achieve the most efficient and uniform assessment of referee and assistant referee performances. In addition, he analysed the latest marking system. Great emphasis was also given to the importance of the UEFA Referee Convention, with detailed explanations about how it would help all the associations to improve the level of their refereeing. ■



## ENGLAND

• [JENNIE HAMBLETON](#) •

### Contribution to cancer research

The England coach, Fabio Capello, visited Newcastle's Freeman Hospital in February to present a cheque for GBP 75,000 on behalf of The Football Association to Sir Bobby Robson, as the former England coach launches his new cancer care centre.

The Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre will be at the forefront of research into cancer – a disease which Sir Bobby is fighting himself for a fifth time.

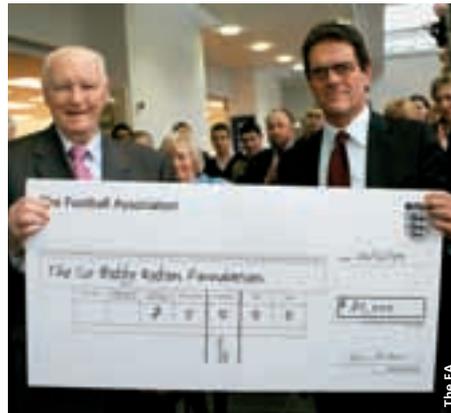
Sir Bobby commented: "I'm very grateful to The FA for their extremely generous support and to Fabio for delivering the donation in person. I know from experience that he has a very demanding job and for him to take the time to visit us personally speaks volumes about his character."

Fabio Capello said: "Sir Bobby Robson is a football legend, not just in England but

around the world. I have known him for many years, from when we both managed in Spain, and I am very pleased that The FA is backing the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

"Sir Bobby is a very courageous man and it is an honour to be able to present him with a donation which will help his foundation's important work."

Sir Bobby Robson was also awarded the UEFA Order of Merit in emerald last month. A highly respected coach with an outstanding record in England and across Europe, Sir Bobby's award was in recognition of his significant contribution to the development and renown of football. The award was collected on his behalf by the FA chairman, Lord Triesman, at the UEFA Congress dinner in Copenhagen on 25 March. ■



Sir Bobby Robson and Fabio Capello display the cheque.



## FRANCE

• [PHILIPPE MAYEN](#) •

### Jobs for young footballers

Integration, citizenship, education, respect... all these ideas are becoming increasingly important in our society. When he was re-elected as president of the French Football Federation, Jean-Pierre Escalettes made civic development in football one of his priorities. Lots of action has already been taken, including the *Un but pour l'Emploi* (a goal for employment) project, which helps young footballers from inner-city areas find long-term employment, using their love of football as a springboard. With the French foundation for action against social exclusion (FACE) and various companies as project partners, the FFF helps to identify potential participants, rallies the leagues to facilitate access to youth worker training schemes, and helps to promote the project. Raymond Domenech is the patron of the project, in which participants work and study through a dual-training system.

The *Permis, sport, emploi* initiative (licence, sport, job) is another move to get 100 young footballers (male and female) from Seine-Saint-Denis into long-term jobs by September. This dual-training format includes an academic refresher course and driving lessons. There are numerous place-



The national coach, Raymond Domenech, is supporting the project.

ments over a period of eight months – in companies, at a driving school, at a military training centre in Lorient, at the FFF training centre in Clairefontaine and at associations. The companies are monitoring the participants throughout, with a view to recruiting them in September. ■



## GEORGIA

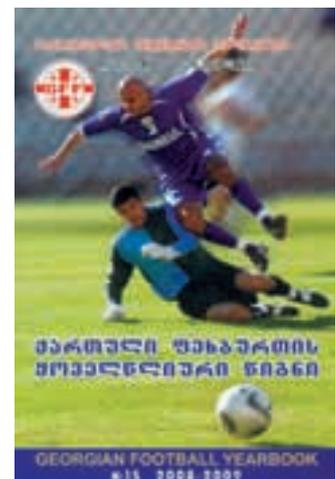
• [LASHA GODUADZE](#) •

### Revaz Shengelia's 2008/09 yearbook

The Georgian Football Federation has made a gift to Georgian football supporters: a new book about Georgian football, written by Revaz Shengelia, is on sale now.

The Georgian Football Yearbook 2008/09 is the 15th edition published in succession since 1993. In the book, football fans can find information about the results of the 2007/08 season. They can also find the team lists of the clubs taking part in the national championship and all sorts of interesting statistics.

A large part of the publication is about the matches of Georgia's national A and youth teams held in 2007/08, but readers will also find interesting information about the other European national teams and their statistics. ■





## GERMANY

• KLAUS KOLTZENBURG •

### DFB membership boom continues

The boom in membership levels at the German Football Association (DFB) is continuing: with the addition of more than 120,000 new members in 2008, the number of registered members stood at 6,684,462 on 1 January this year. The DFB has 25,726 affiliated clubs. Every week, an average of 178,396 teams play organised football. Football therefore remains the most popular sport in Germany and the DFB is still the largest member of the German Olympic Sports Federation.



## ISRAEL

• NIMROD SUZIN •

### Chairman elected to UEFA Executive Committee

In 1994, the Israel Football Association became a full, equal member of UEFA. Now, 15 years later, it has reached another historic and thrilling landmark. Avi Luzon, chairman of the Israel Football Association, has been



Football is more attractive than ever before, especially among children and young people. According to the DFB's new membership figures, a total of 2,315,987 boys and girls play football in the 21 regional associations. Compared to the previous year, this represents an increase of 42,297 youngsters under the age of 18.

This positive overall picture also includes an upward trend in women's and girls' football. The DFB currently has 1,022,824 female members, making this the second time (2008 was the first) that the million mark has been surpassed. According to the current membership figures, a total of 20,219 girls and women have recently joined clubs.

The largest regional association is still Bavaria with 1,465,579 members, followed by Westphalia (823,442), Lower Saxony (670,504), Württemberg (540,273) and Hessen (523,858). ■

elected to the UEFA Executive Committee, the decision-making body of the European football organisation.

Avi Luzon is the first Israeli to be elected to this prominent post and this election demonstrates the high opinion Europe has of the current Israel Football Association.

The UEFA Executive Committee is made up of 15 representatives. Mr Luzon was elected for a four-year term, in the first ballot, by the UEFA Congress in Denmark.

*"This is a very exciting moment for me and an important one for Israeli football. We, as an association in a small country, have managed to make our way to the top of the most important sports organisation in Europe, which highlights the huge advances the Israel Football Association has made in the past two years,"* he said.

*"I can say I am proud and humble, fully conscious of the importance of this mission and filled with great joy."* ■



## LATVIA

• MARTINS HARTMANIS •

### LFF and LMT equip orphanage gym

At the end of March, the Latvian Football Federation (LFF), its general sponsor, Latvian Mobile Telephone (LMT), and the Latvian national football team presented gym equipment to the Apite orphanage in Riga. Previously, the 30 children living there had only ladders in their gym, but now they have universal exercise and fitness apparatus. The LMT is a patron of the Apite house and this was the second time the national football team players and coaches had paid the children a visit. The sweets they brought along were very popular and consumed in record time. The LMT donated books, and the children had prepared a welcome table for their guests. A picture was taken of all the children and guests before they said their goodbyes.

In other news, the LFF held its annual general meeting at the end of March, at

which the LFF outlined its future priorities and took note of the main tasks it faced in the development of Latvian football. The LFF president, Guntis Indriksons, promised that the association would continue the mini-pitch project and expected the first pitches to be opened this summer. Also, Staicele is set to be the first city in Latvian football history to create a national youth team training base, co-funded by the LFF and UEFA. ■



The Latvian national team visits orphans in Riga.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

• ANTON BANZER •

### Financially successful year

The Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) held its annual general meeting in Schaan on 23 March, when the delegates dealt swiftly with a packed agenda.

The LFV was able to welcome delegates from its seven member clubs to this annual gathering, along with representatives of the East Swiss and Vorarlberg football associations. UEFA and FIFA representatives also attended the meeting, with the aim of finding out about the LFV's activities. And they are bound to have left with a very positive impression, since the meeting went extremely smoothly and there was plenty of good news to report.



The Liechtenstein Football Association board, presided by Reinhard Walser (far right)

The LFV president, Reinhard Walser, began by looking back at the highlights of 2008, a year he described as being mixed from a sporting point of view, but very successful financially. The next items on the agenda were the approval of the annual accounts and the adoption of various regulatory amendments. Since all the details had already been discussed with the presidents of the affiliated clubs, the meeting was merely required to adopt the relevant proposals.

The elections for the LFV board and club licensing committees also went without a hitch. Fredy Hilti, LFV vice-president, Georges Lüchinger, marketing director, and Heinz Biedermann, grassroots football director, were all unanimously re-elected for additional two-year terms. The members of two club licensing committees were also unanimously re-elected, giving the LFV continuity at all levels.

At the proposal of the LFV board, the general meeting named former national team player and coach Erich Bürzle as an honorary member. Erich Bürzle captained Liechtenstein's national team as a player and, after hanging up his boots, served as the national team's assistant coach 85 times, team manager three times and even head coach for three matches. In Erich Bürzle, the LFV honoured a man who has given tremendous service to football in Liechtenstein. ■



## LITHUANIA

• JULIUS KVEDARAS •

### A new logo

The Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) has changed its official logo and the executive committee has given the new design its seal of approval.

It was decided that the time had come to change the federation's official logo, to raise the quality standard and make it more democratic, open and western.

The LFF launched a competition for suggestions on how its logo might look through the eyes of professional designers. There were over 30 entrants in the first stage of the competition; four were selected for the second round based on their ideas for the new logo. After long discussions, the most popular design was selected as being that of Audrius Klimas.

The selected design was then fine-tuned. The main idea was to establish a connection with every footballer, which meant not only looking at it from the federation's perspective, but also from that of the players.

*"The main challenge was that there were two different design objectives – official distance and emotional connection. It is along these lines that the vision of the new logo had to take shape. The result is a new, sharp and strong symbol for the Lithuanian Football Federation,"* says the general secretary, Julius Kvedaras.

According to Audrius Klimas, the designer of the new logo, there are many differences between the old and new design. The old logo was the shape of a shield, as used by Lithuanian fighters on the battlefields of old. Such a symbol, Klimas said, was not very appropriate for the official logo because the face of the federation should appear friendly, open and simple to the whole world of football. The federation's main function is to represent Lithuania's football clubs, players and society – for that its logo should not be defensive. ■

This new UEFA appointment will undoubtedly carry new responsibilities for Mifsud. However, given his qualities as a workaholic, he will certainly have more to offer for the benefit of the game.

In addition, while at the congress, the MFA president together with his general secretary, Joe Gauci, and accompanied by Patrick Fenech, representing the MFA referees board, signed up to the UEFA Referee Convention in the presence of Michel Platini and the UEFA general secretary, David Taylor. ■



## MOLDOVA

• VICTOR DAGHI •

### Order of Honour for UEFA president

The UEFA president and a UEFA delegation visited Moldova on 5 March, at the invitation of Pavel Cebanu, president of the Football Association of Moldova



## FYR MACEDONIA

• ZORAN NIKOLOVSKI •

### Plans for a new training centre

At the beginning of March, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, visited FYR Macedonia at the invitation of the football association. During his stay, he visited a monument dedicated to the first football match played in the country, 100 years ago.

The UEFA president also visited the national stadium in the capital, Skopje, which is currently being rebuilt and should be finished in June.

The most important meeting was with the prime minister of FYR Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, where an investment contract for a new training centre in Skopje was discussed. Michel Platini said that UEFA would contribute to the project by the way of its HatTrick programme. The government will supply the plot of land and, according to Hari Hadzi-Risteski, president of the Football Association of FYR Macedonia, the rest of the money will come from sponsors and the association itself.

At the press conference, the UEFA president talked about modern trends in world football and problem areas such as youth transfers. ■



A ceremony in front of the monument commemorating the country's first football match.



## MALTA

• ALEX VELLA •

### Malta FA president given due recognition

During a brief meeting of the newly formed UEFA Executive Committee at the end of the XXXIII Ordinary UEFA Congress in Copenhagen late in March, the president of the Malta Football Association (MFA), Joseph Mifsud, was appointed as one of UEFA's vice-presidents for the next two years, on proposal of UEFA president, Michel Platini.

The MFA top official, a lawyer by profession, is well-versed in European football's administrative circles, having served uninterruptedly on the Executive Committee of the European governing body since he was first elected in 1994, a span of service which makes him one of the doyens of European football administration.

In Malta, Mifsud has been at the helm of football for almost 17 years, during which the Maltese game has continued to make progress in various sectors and he has managed to build on his predecessors' achievements. Advances have been registered in administrative and infrastructural fields, as well as in putting Malta on a wider international, competitive map.

His administrative nous in matters relating to the game has earned him several key positions, including a post as a European member of the FIFA Executive Committee between 1998 and 2000.



Michel Platini, Pavel Cebanu and Vladimir Voronine in the FAM president's office.

(FAM). It was the second time that Michel Platini had visited Moldova in the last three years, but last time, in 2006, he came here as a candidate for the UEFA presidency.

The UEFA president's visit included stops at the FAM offices, where he met the association staff, and the Vadul-lui-Voda technical centre, where he met the FAM executive committee and Moldova's football veterans.

During his visit, the UEFA president also met Vladimir Voronin, president of Moldova. He said that this was his first visit to Moldova as UEFA president and he intended to fully capitalise on his good, friendly relations with the FAM president, Pavel Cebanu, and the possibilities for UEFA to help in the development of Moldovan football. Presently, under the HatTrick programme, the FAM is organising projects to extend the technical centre and equip the pitches with toilets and stands, which would allow the association to host official Under-17 and Under-19 mini-tournaments there.

Mr Cebanu acknowledged the solidarity shown by the European football community in supporting the FAM to restore the Vadul-lui-Voda technical centre after the 2008 summer floods.

The FAM president listed the achievements of recent years in the development of Moldovan football, namely the creation of 46 artificial mini-pitches, the renovation of the Zimbru stadium and the creation of FAM subsidiaries in various Moldovan districts.

Mr Voronin thanked the UEFA president for the projects UEFA had implemented in Moldova. The Moldovan president made special mention of the mini-pitch project. At the end of the event, the UEFA president was awarded the Order of Honour. This distinction was conferred on the UEFA president and celebrated ex-footballer as a sign of appreciation for his special contribution to the development of Moldovan football and the consolidation of its technical and material foundations. *"When I heard the Marseillaise – the French national anthem – in the presidential office, I had two feelings. First of all, I felt like I was at the football match between France and the Republic of Moldova. Secondly, I remembered my last match as captain of the French national team. That was 22 years ago. I am honoured and grateful for this award,"* said the UEFA president at the press conference for Moldovan and foreign journalists. ■



## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

• FRAN WHEARTY •

### Aviva claim naming rights for new stadium

Hibernian Aviva, Ireland's largest insurance company, has secured the naming rights to what will now be called the Aviva Stadium in what is one of the most significant sponsorship deals in Irish history. The deal sees Hibernian Aviva take on the naming rights for a ten-year period and provide investment support to the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) and the FAI for their grassroots programmes.

Meanwhile, following a meeting in Copenhagen, the football associations of Northern Ireland (IFA), the Republic of Ireland (FAI), Scotland (SFA) and Wales (FAW) recently agreed on provisional dates for the six matches of the inaugural four associations' tournament which will take place in Dublin in 2011.

The tournament will be operated on a league basis with six matches played between the four neighbouring teams. The provisional agreement was for the first two games of the tournament involving all four teams to take place on 8 and 9 February 2011, while the remaining four games would take place three months later on 24, 25, 27 and 28 May.

The tournament is expected to attract many thousands of supporters from all over Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, and to provide a major boost to Irish tourism, along with the UEFA Europa League final which takes place at the Aviva Stadium on 18 May 2011. ■



The Aviva Stadium.



## NORTHERN IRELAND

• LEE CARROLL •

### UEFA award for grassroots football

None other than football legend and now president of UEFA, Michel Platini, was in Northern Ireland recently and presented the Irish Football Association with a prestigious UEFA award in recognition of its promotion and development of grassroots football.

Mr Platini presented the president of the Irish FA, Raymond Kennedy, and its head of grassroots football, Lee Carroll, with the coveted five-star recognition under the UEFA Grassroots Charter scheme. Northern Ireland is now mixing with and holding its own against some of the top football nations in Europe and sits proudly alongside seven other top football nations (England, Scotland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Finland and Ukraine) who have attained the five-star award and been recognised by UEFA at the highest level.

The UEFA Grassroots Charter scheme was established around three years ago with the purpose of trying to get all member associations in Europe to bring about and pursue the development of grassroots football in their home countries. The

Irish FA's five-star status reflects the work being undertaken by the association to develop areas of grassroots football such as participation, coach education structures, social responsibility and disability, girls and women's football.

Lee Carroll said: *"The association has been involved in this process for the past couple of years and a lot of hard work and dedication has gone into meeting the criteria for these awards. This is just reward for all the Irish FA staff, grassroots officers and those involved in grassroots football throughout Northern Ireland. To be recognised by UEFA and be one of the top countries in Europe is fantastic."*

Nigel Worthington, Northern Ireland coach and supporter of the grassroots programme, also recognises the signifi-

cance of this accolade. *"When you consider that only eight countries in Europe have received this award and we are up there with the likes of Germany, England and the Netherlands, this puts into context what a great achievement this is,"* said the Northern Ireland boss. *"I have always stressed the importance of getting the grassroots structures right. They are an essential element in the development of players and where all our future stars begin their football careers. I would like to congratulate all the Irish FA staff involved in getting this award."*

The Irish FA has a dedicated team including grassroots, girls' football, disability football and community relations officers all committed to the promotion of grassroots football. ■



The UEFA president, Michel Platini, presents the five-star award to Raymond Kennedy (left), president of the IFA, and Lee Carroll, the IFA's head of grassroots football.



## SLOVAKIA

• JANKA PERACKOVA •

### Fair play award and footballer of the year 2008

The Slovak Football Association (SFA) has been looking back on 2008 with the whole Slovak football family. The 2007/08 fair play awards ceremony was held in the last week of February. The traditional cere-



Martin Skrtel with his impressive player of the year award.

mony took place in Dolny Kubin and, as usual, there were three categories: exemplary and successful playing career, exemplary work and contribution to Slovak football, and extraordinary act. Ladislav Jurkemik, Anton Ondrus and Jan Svehlik, legendary players and winners of the 1976 European Championship, were honoured in the first category, together with Ladislav Kuna (Czechoslovakia's most capped player) and Jan Kozak (current MFK Kosice coach and outstanding former international). Seven people received awards in the second category and special prizes were awarded in the third to three brave men who had saved the lives of three players, each at a different match.

Another important event, which took place in March and was dedicated to current players, was the Slovakian footballer of the year award ceremony. Journalists and football coaches vote for the player who is considered to have performed best over the previous calendar year. The top ten, in ascending order, were Marek Cech (West Bromwich Albion) Filip Holosko (Besiktas Istanbul), Peter Pekarik (VfL Wolfsburg), Stefan Senecky (Ankaraspor AS), Robert Vittek (SC Lille), Jan Kozak (SK Slovan Bratislava), Marek Sapara (Rosenborg Trondheim), Stanislav Sestak (VfL Bochum), Marek Hamsik (SSC Napoli) and, in first place, Martin Skrtel (Liverpool

FC), who took the award for the second year in a row. The Peter Dubovsky award in the Under-21 category, named after an outstanding Slovakian international who died in 2000, also went to last year's winner, Marek Hamsik. In addition to the men's footballer of the year, votes were cast for the 2008 women's footballer of the year. Veronika Klechova of SK Slovan Bratislava won in this category, with Marcela Lukacsova coming second and Eva Kolenova third. ■



## SLOVENIA

• MATJAZ KRAJNIK •

### Management conference

The licensing department of the Slovenian FA (FAS) has organised one of its regular management conferences for Slovenian clubs and football stakeholders, dealing with the future of Slovenian football in different areas: finance, youth football and public relations. Various high-profile speakers addressed these subjects from different angles. A UEFA representative talked about some of the key preventive measures necessary during

the recession in order to minimise its effect and the CEO of FK Austria Wien presented his club's activities. Another guest speaker came over from the Welsh FA to give some insights into his area of expertise, public relations and crisis communication, which the club PR specialists and senior management all found very useful. The last foreign speaker was a representative of Italian football club Udinese Calcio, who presented the Italian giants' scouting strategy. But this was not the last of the interesting, educational presentations: Slovenian football club NK Maribor presented its PR strategy, the FAS's Mladen Cimir spoke about financial and legal aspects of transfer activities, and his colleague Milos Rus presented the FAS grassroots plan for 2008-12. Ales Zavrl, head of the licensing department at the Slovenian FA, was very pleased with the outcome of the conference: *"The feedback we received suggests it was a very successful conference, which is also clear from the number of participants. Domestic and foreign speakers gave presentations on topics that are currently very important, at home and at international level. The exchange of experience and good practice will definitely help the growth of our football."* The conference was also attended by guests from the football associations of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina. ■



## SWITZERLAND

• PIERRE BENOIT •

### Ex-internationals meet in Emmen

At the invitation of the Swiss Football Association (SFV) president, Ralph Zloczower, and general secretary, Peter Gilliéron, former members of Switzerland's national team this year met in Emmen, in the Swiss canton of Lucerne, for their annual get-together.

The SFV technical director, Hansruedi Hasler, and the head of the SFV training centre in Emmen, Heinz Moser, told the group of ex-internationals about the asso-

ciation's training philosophy and its youth development concept, as well as the work of the four SFV training centres.

After attending a training session for young players from the Emmen training centre, the former players went for dinner at the Old Swiss House in Lucerne, where they had an opportunity to reminisce and exchange stories about former glories. Participants at the meeting, the third of its kind, included some really big names in Swiss football, such as Ciriaco Sforza (79 caps), André Egli (76), goalkeeping legend Erich Burgener (64) and Heinz Schneiter (44), who was twice selected for Switzerland's World Cup side, in 1962 and 1966. The guests were welcomed by Switzerland's national team delegate, Ernst Lämmli, and the head coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld. ■



The association's president, Ralph Zloczower, talks to ex-internationals.

# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar

### Birthdays

Jean-Marie Gantenbein (Luxembourg), member of the circle of former UEFA committee members, celebrates his 75th birthday on 12 May. Two match observers are turning 70: Johann Hantschk (Austria) on 3 May and Robert B. Valentine (Scotland) on 10 May. Ernst-Peter Radziwill (Germany), member of the Stadium Construction and Management Panel, celebrates his 60th birthday on 11 May, followed by Odile Lanceau (France), member of the Stadium and Security Committee, on 14 May and Piotr Maranda (Poland), member of the Jira Panel, on 15 May.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Mircea-Lucian Salomir (Romania, 1.5)
- Campbell Ogilvie (Scotland, 1.5)
- Peter Mikkelsen (Denmark, 1.5)
- Ladislav Gadosi (Slovakia, 3.5)
- Volydymyr Chorno-Ivanov (Ukraine, 3.5)
- Anghel Iordanescu (Romania, 4.5)
- Eleonora Gambillara (Switzerland, 4.5)
- Peter Gilliéron (Switzerland, 5.5)
- Costakis Koutsokoumnis (Cyprus, 5.5)
- Kenneth Ridden (England, 6.5)
- Gudmundur Petursson (Iceland, 6.5)
- Stanislav Strapek (Slovakia, 6.5)
- Karl-Erik Nilsson (Sweden, 6.5)
- Murat Jaha (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 7.5)
- Pekka Luhtanen (Finland, 8.5)
- Michel Pralong (Switzerland, 8.5)
- Marc Dobbeleir (Belgium, 8.5)
- Patrick Comninou (Greece, 8.5)
- Ucha Ugulava (Georgia, 8.5)
- Haim Zimmer (Israel, 9.5)
- Georgios Borovilos (Greece, 10.5)
- Armen Melikbekyan (Armenia, 10.5)
- Arie Frost (Israel, 11.5)
- Timo Huttunen (Finland, 11.5)
- Henrik Ravnild (Denmark, 13.5)
- Mattia Piffaretti (Switzerland, 13.5)
- Carlos Manuel Ferreira Matos (Portugal, 14.5)
- Hans-Jörg Eissmann (Germany, 15.5)
- Hakan Nyberg (Sweden, 15.5)
- Evzen Amler (Czech Republic, 15.5)
- Nikolay Levnikov (Russia, 15.5)
- Angel Bungurov (FRY Macedonia, 16.5)
- Lubos Michel (Slovakia, 16.5)
- Svein Johannessen (Norway, 17.5)
- Lars Appelqvist (Sweden, 18.5)
- Andreas Morisbak (Norway, 19.5)
- Jozef Marko (Slovakia, 19.5)

- Helmut Krug (Germany, 19.5)
- Gaetano De Gabriele (Malta, 19.5)
- Rune Pedersen (Norway, 19.5)
- Raimondas Statkevicius (Lithuania, 19.5)
- Michal Listkiewicz (Poland, 20.5)
- Serge Muhmenthaler (Switzerland, 20.5)
- Zvezdan Terzic (Serbia, 21.5)
- Nicolai Cebotari (Moldova, 21.5)
- Theo van Seggelen (Netherlands, 22.5)
- Packie Bonner (Rep. of Ireland, 24.5)
- Ainar Leppänen (Estonia, 24.5)
- Semen Andreev (Russia, 25.5)
- Suheil Daood (Israel, 25.5)
- Hans Cooman (Belgium, 25.5)
- Ivancica Sudac (Croatia, 25.5)
- Ramon Calderon Ramos (Spain, 26.5)
- Evgeni Giner (Russia, 26.5)
- Robert Jeurissen (Belgium, 27.5)
- Zdenek Sivek (Czech Republic, 28.5)
- Patrick A. Daly (Rep. of Ireland, 28.5)
- Jim Stjerne Hansen (Denmark, 28.5)
- Jean-Pierre Escalettes (France, 29.5)
- Jacques Antenen (Switzerland, 29.5)

### Forthcoming events

#### Meetings

##### 12.5.2009, Minsk

Draw for the final round of the European Women's Under-19 Championship

##### 12/13.5.2009, Bucharest

Executive Committee

#### Competitions

##### 5/6.5.2009

UEFA Champions League: semi-finals (return leg)

##### 6-18.5.2009, Germany

Final round of the European Under-17 Championship

##### 7.5.2009

UEFA Cup: semi-finals (return legs)

##### 16.5.2009, Kazan

UEFA Women's Cup: final (first legs)

##### 20.5.2009, Istanbul

UEFA Cup: final

##### 22.5.2009, Duisburg

UEFA Women's Cup: final (return legs)

##### 27.5.2009, Rome

UEFA Champions League: final

### Communication

The Football Union of Russia has a new email address:  
info@rfs.ru

### Match agents

Three new UEFA match agent licences have been granted:

#### Koralia Konstantea

All Star Consultancy Ltd

Syngrou Avenue 137

17121, Nea Smirni

Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 9339830

Fax: +30 210 9340821

korallia.kaziani@allstarsports.gr

#### Cem Ülkeroglu

Kastel Dragos Sahil Sitesi E.3-55

Dragos / Maltepe

Istanbul, Turkey

Tel.: +90 216 457 4771

Mob.: +90 532 297 9139

ulkeroglu@stelia.tv

#### Soslan Salamov

Brit Education & Travel

26 Westbourne Grove

London W2 5RH, England

Tel.: +44 20 7727 2360

Fax: +44 20 7727 5705

soslan@brit-education.co.uk

In addition, David Shepherd

(England) has had his licence

renewed for eight years,

while Reginaldo Rangel Pereira

(England) has cancelled his.

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UEFA  
Route de Genève 46  
CH-1260 Nyon  
Switzerland  
Phone +41 848 00 27 27  
Fax +41 848 01 27 27  
[uefa.com](http://uefa.com)

Union des associations  
européennes de football

