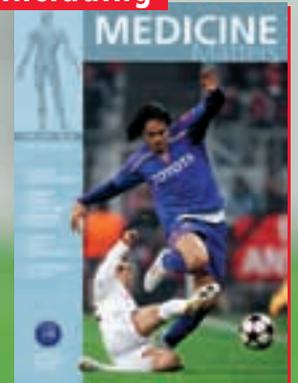


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# uefa direct



Including



**EURO 2016 bid handover**

**03**

**Medical symposium in Stockholm**

**05**



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## COVER

Samuel Eto'o (FC Internazionale) makes a break from Branislav Ivanovic (Chelsea FC) in the UEFA Champions League round of 16 which, for the first time, is spread over four weeks.

Photo: Cacace/AFP/Getty Images



# Message of the General Secretary

## A more sporting image

UEFA already boasts an elegant administrative building in Nyon, which will shortly be complemented by another, in the circular shape of a ball. Nevertheless, this is not enough to make our headquarters any different from those of other companies that have nothing to do with sport.

We have long had the possibility of giving our administration a more sporting image however, since the Colovray stadium, owned by the Nyon authorities, is located right next door to our headquarters. And so it was proposed that efforts should be made to combine our administrative offices with these adjacent sports facilities by asking the Nyon authorities to entrust us with the long-term management and upkeep of the Colovray centre, so that we can stage our own events there, while protecting the interests of the sports clubs that also use the facilities.

Negotiations were held with the municipal authorities and an agreement was reached, entrusting UEFA with the task of managing and maintaining the sports centre. At its recent meeting in Malta, the Executive Committee ratified this agreement, which will enable us to take our activities in a new direction, this time to the heart of what we hold most dear, football.

There are many plans already in place and the first will be implemented without delay: the creation of a centre of excellence that will enable the most promising young referees from all over Europe to continue their training in Nyon with the help of refereeing experts.

The new opportunities that this project creates will ensure that our headquarters represent not just the administrative hub, but also the true heart of European football.

**Gianni Infantino**  
UEFA General Secretary

# Organisation of EURO 2016

## Three bids submitted



UEFA-Woods

### **THE CANDIDATES VYING TO HOST EURO 2016 OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER THEIR BID DOSSIERS TO UEFA AT A CEREMONY CONDUCTED BY GILBERTO MADAÍL, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE, AT UEFA'S HEADQUARTERS IN NYON ON 15 FEBRUARY.**

Following the withdrawal of the joint bid by Norway and Sweden at the end of last year, three individual bids remain on the table: those of the national associations of France, Italy and Turkey, whose representatives travelled to Nyon to hand over their bid dossiers.

The presidents of all three national associations, Jean-Pierre Escalettes for France, Giancarlo Abete for Italy and Mahmut Özgener for Turkey, expressed their fervent desire to host the European Championship final round in 2016, which will be the first to feature 24 teams. They also stressed that this brief rivalry between their respective associations would be conducted in a spirit of fair play and

would not harm their relations with each other in any way. Gilberto Madail, for his part, mentioned the importance of this first milestone, which highlighted the commitment and considerable amount of work already carried out by each candidate since their bids were announced in early 2009.

#### **Calendar of events**

Between now and 28 May, when the Executive Committee will take and announce its decision, the bid dossiers will firstly be analysed in detail by the relevant UEFA departments. More than 100 criteria will be evaluated, including the overall concept, issues related to stadiums, accommodation, transport, political and legal aspects,

social responsibility, television broadcasting and media facilities. The list of any questions that remain after this analysis will be sent to each bidding association from 19 March, at least 17 days before the technical workshops that will be held in the three bidding countries between 7 and 15 April. These workshops will be supplemented by visits aimed at assessing levels of support from the political authorities of the countries and cities concerned.

Once the evaluation is complete, a report will be sent to the bidders on 29 April to enable them to prepare for a meeting with National Team Competitions Committee representatives and members of the UEFA administration. This meeting will be held in Nyon on 6 May and will give each bidder the opportunity to comment on its evaluation report and provide further information where appropriate.



Gilberto Madail accepts the bids from Jean-Pierre Escalettes...



... Giancarlo Abete...



... and Mahmut Özgener.

Then, on 14 May, the final report will be sent to the Executive Committee and National Team Competitions Committee, and published on UEFA.com.

On 26 May, the National Team Competitions Committee will meet in Nyon to finalise the technical recommendations that it will present to the Executive Committee the following day, at a meeting which will include a question and answer session. Executive Committee members from the bidding associations, i.e. the president, Michel Platini, the first vice-president, Senes Erzik, and Giancarlo Abete, will not participate in this meeting and will not be entitled to vote.

In Geneva on 28 May, each bidder will have 30 minutes for a final presentation of their bid using only audio and video material. The order in which the presentations will be made was determined in a draw at the ceremony on 15 February: Turkey will go first, followed by Italy and then France.

The Executive Committee will then deliberate and vote in a separate room. Its decision will be announced to the public by the UEFA president at 13.00.

## Previous final round organisers

- 1960: **France** (final round with 4 teams, 4 matches, in 2 cities)
- 1964: **Spain** (4 teams, 4 matches, 2 cities)
- 1968: **Italy** (4 teams, 5 matches\*, 3 cities)
- 1972: **Belgium** (4 teams, 4 matches, 3 cities)
- 1976: **Yugoslavia** (4 teams, 4 matches, 2 cities)
- 1980: **Italy** (8 teams, 14 matches, 4 cities)
- 1984: **France** (8 teams, 15 matches, 7 cities)
- 1988: **FR Germany** (8 teams, 15 matches, 8 cities)
- 1992: **Sweden** (8 teams, 15 matches, 4 cities)
- 1996: **England** (16 teams, 31 matches, 8 cities)
- 2000: **Belgium and Netherlands** (16 teams, 31 matches, 8 cities)
- 2004: **Portugal** (16 teams, 31 matches, 10 cities).
- 2008: **Austria and Switzerland** (16 teams, 31 matches, 8 cities)
- 2012: **Poland and Ukraine** (16 teams, 31 matches, 8 cities)

\* \*The final had to be replayed.

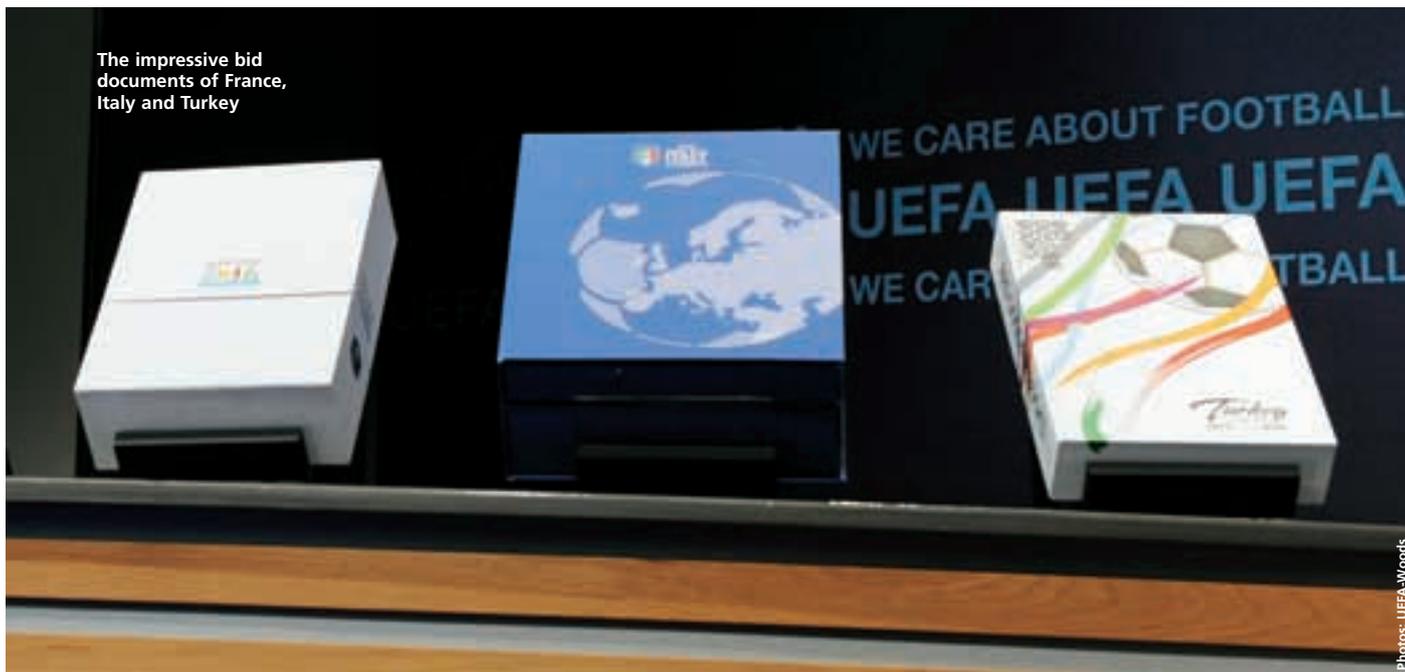
### Voting procedure

There will be two rounds of voting. In the first round, each Executive Committee member entitled to vote will rank the bidders in order of preference, awarding five points to their preferred bidder, two points to the second and one point to the third. The bidder with the lowest score will

be eliminated. If two bidders share second place, an intermediate ballot will determine which bidder is excluded, with the chair of the meeting having a casting vote if necessary.

The electors will then decide between the two remaining bidders. Here also, the chair of the meeting will have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

The impressive bid documents of France, Italy and Turkey



Photos: UEFA-Woods



A collegial atmosphere for fruitful work



# Medical team building

## Team doctors meet in Stockholm

**THE OFFICIAL DENOMINATION WAS THE 5TH UEFA MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM. BUT IT'S ONE OF THOSE NAMES THAT CAN GIVE A FALSE IMPRESSION. IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO CONJURE UP IMAGES OF DOCTORS GATHERED TOGETHER TO DISCUSS SURGICAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ANTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENTS OR THE TREATMENT OF AILMENTS WITH OBSCURE LATIN NAMES. BUT THE EVENT STAGED IN STOCKHOLM FROM 9 TO 11 FEBRUARY WAS NOTHING LIKE THAT. OK, IT WAS ABOUT MEDICAL MATTERS. BUT IT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY ABOUT FOOTBALL.**

As Dr Michel D'Hooghe, chairman of UEFA's Medical Committee, remarks in his editorial of the *Medicine Matters* publication, "I was impressed by the fantastic collegiate atmosphere in Stockholm. There was an ambience of friendship among colleagues who face the same challenges. Credit for this must go to the Swedish national association who created, around the symposium, an ambience which was a perfect one for listening, discussing and learning. I went home with an exceptionally good feeling and with a clear view of the issues which currently concern team doctors."

### Full integration

In the Swedish capital, the collegiate atmosphere was formed by doctors representing 52 of UEFA's member associations and the group of top clubs which are taking part in UEFA's ongoing injury study, which is now in its ninth season and is therefore generating highly relevant information from a solid database.

One of the points to emerge strongly from the symposium was the evolution of the 'team doctor' into the medical teams which, these days, look after the health and welfare of the



Photos: Sportsfile

top players. This was highlighted during a presentation by UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, which focused on the team behind the team. The former Swedish national team coach Lars Lagerbäck was on stage to underline not only the value of the medical team but also the need to integrate them fully into the daily life of the squad and to involve them in all team get-togethers. This angle was endorsed by a member of the Swedish team behind the team, Paul Balsom,

who discussed the growing relevance of sports science and its tangible benefits in terms of performance analysis – and improvement.

### Referee's role

Michel D'Hooghe strongly defended the thesis that "medical matters are not exclusively in the hands of doctors" – and this was borne out when former elite referee Markus Merk told the audience in Stockholm that "the players' most important capital is their health, and referees have a role to play in protecting it." During a review of UEFA's injury study, Prof. Jan Ekstrand also said, "the clubs who have, over the years, most consistently kept injury levels low usually stress the importance of close communication with the coaching staff, with general managers

and even with the board of directors. It is very important for other areas within the club or the national association to show interest and understanding when it comes to medical care."

The programme in Stockholm was exceptionally varied – covering subjects such as doping controls, the prevention of cardiac arrests and the specificities of the women's game. But the core element was football – and the importance of integrating medical teams into the modern footballing family.



Liutauras Varanavicius, chairman of the UEFA Media Committee



Exchanges improve communication.



# UEFA media seminar Communicators communicate in Nyon

**What are the key elements in 'crisis communications'? How can football make use of social networking websites? What are the benefits of applying ISO quality management standards to the work of a national association? These were some of the widely diverse issues examined at a UEFA media seminar staged in Nyon on 4 and 5 February.**

The event brought together media officers and directors of communication from 34 member associations with the aim, as expressed by the chairman of the UEFA Media Committee, Liutauras Varanavicius, of *"sharing, learning, networking and strengthening the bonds between UEFA and its member associations"*.

During the opening session, the participants received some up-to-date information from UEFA – not least on the updated and relaunched UEFA.com platform, which is closely linked to the websites of many

national associations. But after that, the communication flow changed direction, with the associations providing the information and talking points.

Gil Lebanony, for example, persuaded his audience to view media work from a different perspective by explaining how the Israeli association had applied for – and obtained – the ISO 9001 rating for quality management. Although a commonplace in the business world for nearly four decades, the ISO standards have rarely been applied in the football world.

The value of doing so, as Gil explained, is that procedures have to be examined, reviewed and recorded in great detail. The tangible result in the media sector is a series of checklists which help the department to offer optimal service to the association, to the playing and coaching staff, to commercial and TV partners – and, of course, to the media. This helps to eliminate the 'I've been doing this for years and don't need checklists' mentality and to provide a legacy which could prove invaluable if, for instance, less experienced staff are recruited by the media department. In other words, Gil convinced his audience that applying ISO standards to football is not as outlandish as it might sound.

### Workshop sessions

Relationships with the media represent an endemic feature of this type of event, as do operational aspects ranging from accreditation procedures to mixed zone activities. But the 2010 seminar moved a step further by examining ways of relating directly to the public via social networking websites which can allow organisations to connect with their 'customers'. This provided the theme for one of the workshop sessions on the second day, after the participants had been warmed up by Geoff Wilson, head of marketing and communications at the Northern Irish FA.

Geoff explained how social networking could be productively included in a national association's communications strategy, permitting positive messages to be delivered directly to the public using an approach considerably less formal than the average carefully worded official website. Social networking sites, he suggested, were ideal for promoting grassroots activities and, whereas traditional media transmitted messages, they also provided opportunities for dialogue with the public as opposed to one-way media traffic. This was just one of the thought-provoking elements in a highly productive seminar.



Photos: UEFA-Woods



Pavilhão Atlântico, the venue for the finals

Turismo de Lisboa



Interviú Madrid will be seeking to retain the title they won last year by beating Ekaterinburg.

Spain file

# UEFA Futsal Cup

## New name on the trophy?

**NO DISRESPECT TO THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS, INTERVIÚ MADRID, BUT, IN THE LINE-UP FOR THIS SEASON'S FINAL FOUR, THE SPANISH TEAM IS ACCOMPANIED BY THREE CLUBS WHO HAVE NEVER WON THE UEFA FUTSAL CUP BEFORE, TWO OF WHOM HAVE NEVER REACHED THE FINAL PHASE OF THE COMPETITION BEFORE.**



One is the Italian team Luparense Calcio a 5, who qualified by beating Spanish opponents ElPozo Murcia 5-4 in a dramatic match

where all the goals were scored in the final 12 minutes. The other is Araz Naxçivan of Azerbaijan, who earned their debut by defeating their compatriots and rivals, Kairat Almaty, 4-3 in the elite round summit played in Baku. Curiously, Araz are a chameleonic squad who change their colours into the Azerbaijan national team that took fourth place at the European Futsal Championship finals in January – complete with their Brazilian coach, Alesio da Silva. Eleven Araz players were wearing the national team's colours in Hungary.

### Promising perspectives

The final four are completed by SL Benfica, silver medallists in 2004, who beat the 2008 champions, Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg from Russia, to clinch a place in the finals, which will be played on their home territory in Lisbon – but not quite at home. The Portuguese team normally plays at the sports pavilion alongside the Estádio da Luz, but the final tournament will be staged at the magnificent Pavilhão Atlântico, venue for the EURO 2004 draw and used as the

main media centre and international broadcast centre during the final tournament. In a way, the Futsal Cup is returning to its origins, as the final phase of the inaugural competition in 2002 was staged as an eight-team tournament at this very venue. The final-four format was introduced in 2007.

It is a grandiose scenario for what promises to be a grandiose event, with the semi-finals to be played on Friday 23 April, building up to a climax with the two 'medal matches' on Sunday 25. The 10,000 capacity at the Pavilhão Atlântico has created high expectations in terms of attendances which could easily break competition records.

### Spectacular draw ceremony

But one record that will have been broken before the ball has even started rolling in Lisbon is the attendance for the semi-final draw. It will be spectacularly conducted on the pitch at the Estádio da Luz during the half-time interval of the top-of-the-table clash between SL Benfica and SC Braga. Representatives of all four finalists have been invited to enjoy the big outdoor game, as UEFA is staging a workshop in conjunction with the draw in order to fine-tune logistics for the final tournament.

Over at the Pavilhão Atlântico, the fans can look out for something like the revolutionary branded black playing surface which made its debut at the European Championship finals. And the profile of the event has been raised even further by the fact that, for the first time, the UEFA Futsal Cup has a presenting sponsor.

When the ball starts rolling, the question will be whether the big-tournament experience of Interviú Madrid, European champions in 2004, 2006 and 2009, will give them the edge against the hosts and the two debutants. SL Benfica's coach, César Paulo, insists *"having got this far, we'll compete to become champions of Europe."* In Lisbon, they won't be short of support.



The atmosphere in the arena in Lisbon will be electric.

pavilhao atlantico.pt



Sports activities during the visit to Crotona

G. Gisca



Coordination meeting

G. Gisca



A friendly atmosphere

G. Gisca

# Fair play

## In sport and in the world

**FAIR PLAY AND RESPECT IN GENERAL ARE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES TO WHICH THE FOOTBALL AUTHORITIES ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED.**

Schools, a fundamental part of society, share this commitment. For several years now, European schools have enjoyed access to the Comenius projects, a useful additional tool that complements educational activities and facilitates direct collaboration between schools.

Following the success achieved among national agencies with the project *The Effect of Football on our Everyday Lives* (cf. *uefadirect* No. 78) and the fruitful cooperation between the pupils, teachers and communities involved, it seemed appropriate to continue the good work and apply for a new football-related Comenius project.

Heinrich Schneider, who coordinated and promoted the previous project, and the Realschule in Niederkrüchten are not participating in this new initiative, but another German school, based in Olsberg, near Dortmund, has taken the baton.

### Nine partners

Participation in the new project has taken on a truly continental dimension because, as well as the four institutions which have decided to continue their involvement – the *Escola Profissional do Alto Minho Interior* in Paredes de Coura (Portugal), the *Instituto Comprensivo 7º Circolo* in

Papanice de Crotona (Italy), the *Lycée Sportif* in Vaslui (Romania) and the *Collège National d'Informatique Traian Lalescu* in Hunedoara (Romania) – the following institutions, in addition to the *Berufskolleg Olsberg des HSK*, have signed up: the *Technicum Noord Antwerpen* (Belgium), the *Kazim Dirik İlkogretim Okulu* (Izmir, Turkey), the *Seredziaus pagrindine mokykla Jurbarko raj.* (Seredzius, Lithuania) and the *Gimnazia Yane Sandanski* (Sandanski, Bulgaria). Unfortunately, a school in Halifax (England) withdrew from the project after obtaining the green light from the national agencies.

Although the project only lasts two years (2009–11), it includes a busy programme of activities and numerous objectives, both educational and specific. The project promotes and spreads common-sense behaviour and practices in sport and responsible, creative participation in sport. It endeavours to engage pupils in analysing and studying practices



An official visit to the Crotona authorities

G. Gisca



Workshop

G. Gisca



Cultural activities to create a positive atmosphere

G. Gisca



The authorities and the project members exchange gifts.

G. Gisca

in sport, with the aim of correcting poor behaviour and bad habits. Through these activities, the pupils will be able to think about, devise, write and implement rules.

### Project objectives

The practical objectives for the pupils are:

- to gain a European perspective on violence in sport;
- to promote the rules of fair play in all circumstances (in and outside stadiums, on the streets and while travelling, in relations between supporters, etc.);
- to analyse violent outbursts and behaviour in contact sports, particularly football, the world's most popular game;
- to develop communication skills with people of different nationalities, team spirit and fair play;
- to improve their knowledge of foreign languages;
- to find creative ways of watching and assessing different events;
- to broaden their cultural horizons through the project activities;
- to use a blog to express their ideas;
- to develop social and citizenship skills;
- to improve their learning skills;
- to develop their sense of initiative;
- to acquire cultural skills and be able to express them.

At the end, the pupils will create and implement a 'fair play Decalogue'; they will also think up, design and create a fair play mascot as a symbol of tolerance and mutual respect between competitors in sport.

Many of the activities will take place in schools and the young people (coordinated by their teachers) will communicate via the blog they have already set up, email and Skype.



The participants will attend matches to observe the behaviour of the spectators and players.

Gesty Images

### First meeting in Crotona

The project also involves six get-togethers for the participants in the cities of six of the schools involved. The first, held in Crotona, Calabria, was devoted in particular to the activity programme, the tasks assigned to each school, the calendar of get-togethers and the final products.

In order to gauge the young people's level of knowledge, they were asked to complete a 45-point questionnaire; this questionnaire has already been filled in and the results were analysed during the second get-together in Izmir from 8 to 15 March. Another important decision taken was to continue watching football matches in the cities where the get-togethers are held; participants will therefore see at first hand how the players involved in the matches and the spectators respect the rules of fair play.

Although the programme for the get-together in Crotona was busy and productive, the participants had time to visit some tourist sites in the

region, which is full of ancient (especially Greek) and medieval monuments. They also attended Greek dance shows and end-of-year festivities, visited the town halls of Crotona and Santa Severina and were hosted by the leaders of the Crotona Chamber of Commerce. These intercultural activities helped to create a cordial, open and productive atmosphere for the workshop that was held during the get-together.

Finally, the various elements of this first gathering were well reported in the regional press, even before the programme was over in Crotona, Paredes de Coura and Hunedoara.

Future get-togethers will take place in Sandanski (May 2010), Antwerp (September 2010), Olsberg (January 2011) and, finally, Paredes de Coura (May 2011). The length of the project and the number of schools mean that not every city can host a get-together, but the main objective is to do as much as possible to promote fair play in stadiums and in everyday life.

*George Gisca*



Ricopa/AFP/Getty Images

The club licensing system was introduced at European level to govern the admission of clubs to the UEFA competitions.



Ricopa/AFP/Getty Images

As is the case in Portugal, (FC Porto-Leiria), most top-division championships involve 16 teams.

# Club football under the microscope

## A step towards transparency

**THE UEFA CLUB LICENSING UNIT RECENTLY PUBLISHED AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDES A BETTER PICTURE OF THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF ELITE FOOTBALL IN EUROPE.**



Coloursport/Andrew Cowie

There is an obvious link between television broadcasts and club revenues.

Some 80 pages long, *The European Club Footballing Landscape* summarises a comparative analysis of the financial results of more than 600 top-division clubs from UEFA's 53 member associations.

The starting point and source of information for the report is UEFA's club licensing procedure, in which more and more clubs are participating. Although they initially took part in order to obtain a place in the UEFA competitions, many associations have since introduced a licensing system for their own national competitions, sometimes even for clubs outside their top division. A total of 1,344 clubs therefore underwent

a licensing procedure in 2009. For the 2009/10 UEFA competitions, 608 of the 732 top-division clubs (83%) applied for a licence and only 498 (82%) were successful, with financial criteria alone accounting for 25 refusals.

The huge amount of information gathered as part of the licensing process both at national level and for the UEFA competitions constitutes an unparalleled record not only of financial issues, but also of stadiums, competition structures, match attendances, etc.

The report covers the following aspects, which are dealt with in the form of 41 questions and answers:

### Sporting profile

This section shows, among other things, that the most common size of top divisions is 16 teams, that the number of top-division teams has increased from 707 to 732 in the six-year period of licensing, and that 27 national associations have changed the size of their top division. It also reports that 40 national associations play their championship from summer to spring, while the other 13 (in eastern and northern Europe) follow the civil calendar. Championship structures are also analysed, with most associations using a two-round system. The report shows that 60% of associations operate a direct relegation system and that fewer than one in five top-division clubs (17%) owns its stadium.

This part of the report also provides information on match attendances, with an estimated 105 million spectators attending 11,460 top-division matches, representing an average of around 9,000 per match.

### Financial profile: income

This chapter details clubs' financial reporting dates and sources of income, which is estimated at more than EUR 11.5 billion for 2008, excluding transfer fees. Overall income is rising (+10.6% between 2008 and 2009). Analysis of the share of income shows that 13% of clubs generate 69% of income and that English clubs are the most successful in this area,



Korotayev/Epsilon/Getty Images

In Russia, the championship is played according to the calendar year, from spring to autumn.



Birkenland/EuroFootball/Getty Images

Stadiums rarely belong to the clubs.



## News from Brussels

Cypriot politician Androulla Vassiliou officially assumed office as the new European commissioner for education, culture, multilingualism and youth on 9 February. Her new portfolio also includes sport.

Androulla Vassiliou was born in Cyprus on 30 November 1943. In her previous role as European



Androulla Vassiliou

commissioner for health, she helped UEFA to launch the publication *Eat for Goals!* on 30 September 2008 (cf. *uefadirect*, No. 78). She will hold her new position as commissioner for education, culture, multilingualism and youth for the next four years.

After studying law in London, Androulla Vassiliou worked as a lawyer in the business sector in the UK and Cyprus. She began her political career as a liberal member of the Cypriot parliament in 1996, and as such was involved in drawing up the aborted European Constitution. She is married to George Vassiliou, former president of Cyprus, and speaks Greek, English and French.

At her European Parliament hearing on 14 January, the commissioner spoke about

while Slovenia is the country where income is most evenly spread between clubs.

The study also attempts to establish a link between financial resources and sporting success at national and European levels.

### Financial profile: costs and profitability

Overall expenditure of top-division clubs is estimated at EUR 12.1 billion, i.e. 105% of income. On average, wages alone represent 61% of total income and they increased by 18% in one year. No fewer than 198 clubs have spent more than 70% of their income on wages, while for 57 of them the figure is over 100%!

The study also investigates the inclusion of transfers in club accounts and the impact of transfers on profits, demonstrating that the transfer system acts as an important financial solidarity mechanism for clubs in many middle-income and almost all low-income divisions.

The analysis also shows that 47% of top-division clubs reported net losses in 2007 and that 22% of clubs even recorded losses equivalent to more than 20% of their income. The situation

was more positive elsewhere: the ten clubs that recorded the highest profits reported a total of EUR 323 million for 2008.

### Financial profile: assets, debts and other liabilities

The final chapter of the report considers clubs' debts, analysing types of assets and liabilities, club financing, tax-related issues and balance sheet trends. It shows, among other things, that 224 clubs (35%) had more liabilities than assets and that the general trend was negative.

The full version of this report, which will help to increase transparency and financial fair play in European club football, is available in French, German, English and Russian on UEFA.com.

### Survey on professional leagues

Meanwhile, UEFA professional football services have published the results of their *Survey on Professional League Organisations 2009–10*, a document containing information about the organisational, political and legal structures of the leagues, as well as their powers, and on which uefadirect will report in a forthcoming issue.



Coloursport/Mark Greenwood

Supporters are part and parcel of top-flight football.

→ sport for the first time. Mentioning her desire *“to explore, in consultation with the sports movement, the possibilities opened up by the Treaty of Lisbon which, for the first time, contains a provision on sport,”* she also said that *“dialogue must be at the heart of practical actions on the part of the EU in order to promote the social and educational functions of sport. For it is not simply an economic activity; sport has a huge social dimension.”*

Questioned by an MEP about her priority areas for action, the commissioner expressly mentioned gender equality, integration through sport and the fight against racism and doping.

In reply to a question about the specific nature of sport from MEP Ivo Belet, who initiated a European Parliament resolution on the future of professional football in Europe, adopted in March 2007 (cf. *uefadirect*, No. 59), she said *“there is no single solution. I will work with my services and the other commissioners to see how the specific nature of sport can be taken into account.”* As an initial response this autumn, the European Commission will publish a communication on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty.

Before pointing out that *“sport should, before anything else, be put at the service of the people”*, a smiling Androulla Vassiliou said, *“I am a sports fan, but not particularly a football fan. I need to learn. I come from an island; I’m a swimmer.”*

The UEFA president, Michel Platini, sent a letter of congratulations to the new commissioner, assuring her of UEFA’s active support in her new role.



Cristiano Ronaldo and Raúl, together with Esperanza Aguirre, president of the autonomous community of Madrid, display a giant ticket for the UEFA Champions League final.

RFEF

# Meetings and other activities

## Preparation of new club season

**AT ITS MEETING IN NYON ON 10 FEBRUARY, THE UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MICHAEL VAN PRAAG, BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON.**

It approved the competition regulations, for example, which will now be submitted to the Executive Committee. One of the main proposed changes is the adoption of a new system for suspensions following yellow cards. Currently, different systems apply to qualifying matches and matches from the group stage onwards. For the first part of the competition, before the group matches, a player is suspended for one match after receiving a second yellow card; he is then suspended again after his fourth and sixth cautions. From the group stage onwards, players are suspended after three yellow cards and every second subsequent caution.

### **‘Bonus-malus’ principle**

The proposed new system removes this distinction and is based on the ‘bonus-malus’ principle, according to which players are not just punished, but are also rewarded for good behaviour. In practical terms, this means that, if a player is cautioned in one match but is not cautioned in his next three matches, the initial yellow card is written off.

In all phases of the competition, a one-match suspension applies after the second yellow card (as long as the player concerned has not played three matches without a caution between the two yellow cards).

### **Recurring themes**

The committee also decided to retain the current revenue distribution model for the 2010/11 season. And it once again discussed two recurring themes of club football: the eligibility of players who are transferred during the season between two clubs involved in UEFA competitions and the participation of domestic cup runners-up in the following season’s UEFA Europa League if the winners have already qualified for the UEFA Champions League – two subjects where unanimity is virtually impossible, since people’s points of view vary so widely.

The committee also noted the progress made in efforts to establish financial fair play in the UEFA club competitions. It also heard a positive initial report on the experiment carried out in the Europa League involving two additional assistant referees.



The Coliseum Alfonso Pérez stadium in Getafe is the venue for the UEFA Women's Champions League final.

Empics Sport

## Busy programme for Madrid final

The UEFA club competitions will enter a new three-year cycle in 2012. The changes that have been made during the current cycle were therefore analysed in detail in order to see what, if any, amendments should be made for the new cycle. To this end, a broad consultation was conducted among national associations, leagues, clubs, players and coaches, as well as commercial partners, media and supporters. Their opinions formed the basis of discussions for groups of experts and the revision/consultation process will continue in order that recommendations can be submitted to the Executive Committee, which will take a decision at the end of 2010.

Concerning the more immediate future, the committee was briefed on the events to be held in conjunction with the 2010 Champions League final, the first to be played on a Saturday evening, in Madrid. Women's and grassroots football will feature particularly prominently in the run-up to the Champions League final, with the UEFA Women's Champions League final to be staged at Getafe's stadium on Thursday, 20 May, preceded by UEFA Grassroots Day, the culmination of various activities, including youth tournaments and skills competitions, on Wednesday, 19 May. Young people will also take centre stage on 19 May with a match in the Di Stefano stadium between the Under-18 teams of the two Champions League finalists.

■ On 5 March, the sale of tickets for the Champions League final was launched in Madrid. For the final on 22 May, the Santiago Bernabeu stadium will have a capacity of 75,000 seats, the vast majority of which will be reserved for the general public (11,000 seats) and supporters of the two finalists (21,000 per team). The general public's allocation was on sale via uefa.com from 8 to 19 March. Special arrangements have been made this year to encourage young spectators to attend.

The ceremony in Madrid on 5 March was held at the Palacio de la Presidencia de la Comunidad and was attended by the final ambassador, Emilio Butragueno, and Real stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Raul.

## UEFA Events takes shape

**With David Taylor, former UEFA general secretary, at the helm, the new company UEFA Events has begun to take shape.**

Two divisions have been formed and their directors, who were appointed in February, have been in their new posts since mid-March.

**Guy-Laurent Epstein** is the company's marketing director. Having joined UEFA in autumn 2002, he headed the media rights unit. It is his job to restructure the marketing and commercial divisions in order to create a single division responsible for the development of activities in these two areas.

**Martin Kallen**, who joined UEFA in June 1994 and was chief operating officer of Euro 2008 SA and then director of the EURO division, is now director of operations of UEFA Events, covering not only operations linked to the European Football Championship (EURO), but also those relating to the club competitions and other important UEFA events.

## Grassroots Day website

One hundred days before Grassroots Day, UEFA launched a new website ([uefagrassrootsday.com](http://uefagrassrootsday.com)) devoted entirely to grassroots football and 19 May in particular, when grassroots football will be celebrated all over Europe. In parallel with the events being organised by UEFA in Madrid, the member associations will be able to draw attention to their grassroots activities by organising their own special events.



The website will also contain educational material, videos, games and lessons for children aged between 10 and 14.

It should also be noted that the official UEFA website ([uefa.com](http://uefa.com)) has recently been redesigned.



The UEFA Events management: David Taylor, CEO, with Martin Kallen (left) and Guy-Laurent Epstein

UEFA-Woods



The draw for the UEFA Regions' Cup was made by Grigoriy Surkis (left), chairman of the Youth and Amateur Football Committee, and vice-chairman Jim Boyce.

UEFA/Woods

## Eusébio receives UEFA President's Award

Eusébio, former star striker of SL Benfica and the Portuguese national team, has been presented with the UEFA President's Award by Michel Platini.



Leong/AFP/Getty Images

He received the accolade in Lisbon on 23 February on the occasion of the UEFA Europa League match between Benfica and Hertha BSC Berlin. It honours the career of an exemplary player who, as the UEFA president emphasised, is an example not only for his qualities as a footballer but also for his respectful manner both on the football pitch and in everyday life.

## Regions' Cup draw

The first act of the 7th UEFA Regions' Cup took place on 12 February at the House of European Football in Nyon, where the preliminary and intermediate round draws were held.



Thirty-nine national associations will be represented in this new edition of the competition. Twelve of them, split into three groups, will contest the preliminary round in the form of mini-tournaments.

They are:

Group 1: *Turkey, Wales, Croatia, England*

Group 2: *Armenia, Israel, Hungary, Romania*

Group 3: **FYR Macedonia, Sweden, Northern Ireland, Estonia**

**Mini-tournament organisers in bold**

The three group winners and the two best runners-up will progress to the intermediate round, in which the 32 remaining teams will be split into eight groups. All three preliminary round group winners were drawn into the same group!

Group 1: **Malta**, *Germany, Greece, Spain*

Group 2: *Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Belgium*

Group 3: **Republic of Ireland**, *Italy, San Marino, France*

Group 4: **Slovenia**, *group 3 winners, group 2 winners, group 1 winners*

Group 5: **Bulgaria**, *Slovakia, Serbia, best group runners-up*

Group 6: **Czech Republic**, *second best group runners-up, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lithuania*

Group 7: **Poland**, *Russia, Finland, Belarus*

Group 8: **Ukraine**, *Azerbaijan, Latvia, Moldova*

The eight group winners will play in the final round in the country of one of the participants. In principle, the national associations are represented in this competition, which is reserved for amateur players, by a regional team, selected by means of a national competition. However, due to their small size, the associations of Malta and San Marino are allowed to select a national team.

■ The 18th UEFA Course for Coach Educators will take place from 12 to 16 April at the Italian Football Federation's technical centre in Coverciano. Its theme will be 'educating tomorrow's coaches' and it will aim to help coaches working for national associations in the coach education field. The course will focus on the development of coaching skills in realistic learning situations.



Pollex/Bongarts/Getty Images

While the fixtures for the qualifying matches in the UEFA Regions' Cup were being decided at the draw in Nyon, Europe's top clubs were embarking on the closing stages of the season. In the UEFA Europa League, SV Hamburg (Marcell Jansen, in white) qualified for the round of 16 by eliminating PSV (Stanislav Manelov).

**ALBANIA**



**Start of a 'green revolution'**

Albanian clubs have begun to say stop to the long and difficult era of the lack of training pitches. Thanks to the mutual cooperation of the Albanian Football Association (AFA) and UEFA through the second cycle of the HatTrick programme, 12 artificial pitches have started to be inaugurated throughout Albania, greatly easing the situation in terms of the training infrastructure of Albanian football clubs.

Already half of the pitches are ready, while the rest are at the development stage.

The first two pitches, inaugurated on 11 and 12 February, belong to KF Besa Kavaje and



**Albania**  
Inauguration of one of the new artificial pitches

KF Dinamo Tirana. It was a great pleasure for these clubs, players, coaches and football fans that the deputy general secretary of UEFA, Theodore Theodoridis, the president of the AFA, Armand Duka, and other Albanian football figures took part in the inauguration ceremonies.

The heads of the clubs and the local authorities thanked the AFA and UEFA for their investment in the artificial pitches, declaring that this investment would improve the qualitative development of football training in Albania. Theodore Theodoridis addressed both ceremonies, mentioning the help that UEFA

had already given and would continue to give to assist Albanian football.

The president of the AFA, Armand Duka, valued this project, which will provide assistance to the training process in Albanian clubs, which have had difficulties up until now. He promised that the Albanian Football Association would continue to support the improvement of football infrastructure in Albania. The pitches of Saranda and Durrës are also finished, while those of Shkodër and Fier will be ready soon. ■

*Tritan Kokona*

**AUSTRIA**



**Football for children**

The future belongs to our children – and this applies to football too! This is why the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) is particularly focusing on children's football in 2010. Children are only likely to succeed in football if they are introduced to the sport at a young age in a professional, yet fun way. Of course, high-quality children's coaches are also very important in this respect.

The Fussball für Kinder (Football for Children) DVD, conceived by the ÖFB sports director, Willi Rutensteiner, contains two different films that provide an impressive, critical insight into children's football. One, the film *Erwischt?! (Caught?!)*, portrays inappropriate behaviour in a professional and satirical manner and is meant to help prevent it in the future.

The DVD also includes a presentation of basic principles, objectives and information from the ÖFB concerning children's football. The additional film shows the enthusiasm of children and the fun of physical exercise linked to training in technical skills and coordination.

Fifteen thousand copies of the Fussball für Kinder DVD have been produced on behalf of

the ÖFB, with a high level of support from the ministry of sport. More than 10,000 copies have been given to the regional associations, in order to ensure that each of the 2,000+ clubs in Austria has enough copies. In addition, each regional association will receive a complete set of equipment (like that used in the film), containing items such as pendulum trainers, soft plastic goals, agility ladders, dummy players and football tennis nets.

The ÖFB's president, Leo Windtner, is delighted with the DVD and grateful to those involved in producing it: "We would not have been able to make the DVD without the support of sponsors, so we are particularly grateful to the ministry of sport and to PUMA, the ÖFB's official supplier for many years. I would also like to thank all the coaches and players involved in the filming and the men and women who worked behind the scenes." ■

*Peter Klinglmüller*



**Austria**  
Willi Rutensteiner, sports director, and Thomas Janeschitz, training director, present the DVD.

advice and recommendations. This will all help to boost the young players' confidence to compete on the international stage with determination and self-assurance and, as a result, be successful in their forthcoming competitions, we hope.

Renate Lingor's programme ended with a visit to secondary school number 201 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, where she met the girls' football team and held a practice session with girls at the same school. The children were very excited to see the well-known footballer, asking her a lot of questions and queuing for autographs. This visit might seem a small gesture but the shining eyes proved that such actions are very important for these girls, who will perhaps become great players like Renate Lingor one day.

In her interview with the AFFA newspaper and official website, Renate Lingor said, "I have seen that the AFFA supports girls' football in every possible way, for the good of future players. They receive full support from the AFFA. I think the conditions provided by the AFFA will be of enormous benefit to the continued development of Azeri girls' football. I believe more girls will join football in the next few years. They may become professional or amateur players in the future, but whatever the case, there is no doubt that they will remain interested in football." ■

*Ulviyya Najafova*

**AZERBAIJAN**



**Renate Lingor visits Baku**

In accordance with the agreement signed by the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and the German Football Association (DFB), and at the AFFA's invitation, Renate Lingor, German international, world and European champion, and Olympic bronze-medallist, visited Baku. The aim of Lingor's visit was to encourage more girls to play and stay in football – in other words, to promote football among girls in Azerbaijan. Her first port of call was the AFFA football academy, where the Azerbaijan women's national team train. There she had the opportunity to meet the players, who were delighted to meet a well-known figure from the world of football. It was also a good opportunity for the young players to be exposed to such a training session, during which the visitor from Germany gave useful

**Azerbaijan**  
Renate Lingor at a training session



## Belarus

The championship draw was conducted by Mikhail Vergeenko, vice-president of the football association.



## BELARUS



### New championship system

In February, everyone's attention was on the EURO 2012 qualifying round draw. Belarus landed in Group D with France, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Luxembourg. Later on in February, at a meeting in Luxembourg, the fixture list was planned. As a result, the Belarus national team will play their first match away in France.

In other news, two UEFA experts visited Belarus as part of the Jira project to gather information about coach education in Belarus.

They examined the possibility of Belarus being approved for the UEFA pro licence in the future and for graduates of the university of physical culture and sport to get a UEFA B licence.

Finally, the draw for the 2010 Visshaya Liga was held at the beginning of February. This year, the top flight has been reduced to 12 teams and a new three-round system will be implemented. ■

Yulia Zenkovich

## CROATIA



### Significant anniversaries

The Croatian Football Federation (CFF) has held its annual general meeting, at which the annual report for 2009 was accepted. Success is visible in many aspects of the federation. The number of players increased by 10,000 and we now have 119,330 registered. Meanwhile, the number of teams rose to 1,780. The implementation of the club licensing regulations gave good results in terms of the organisational structure of clubs and infrastructure. Our good cooperation with UEFA continued, and we successfully hosted the final tournament of the 6th UEFA Regions' Cup, UEFA qualifying tournaments, UEFA and CFF professional seminars and UEFA study group schemes. We also expect to be selected as hosts of the 2012 European Futsal Championship final tournament. In the area of grassroots, the CFF also achieved successful development, receiving UEFA Summer of Grassroots Football awards for the most valuable grassroots football event of 2009 (community sport associations of the city of Vinkovci), best disabled football event (Subocevac training and education centre in Sibenik), best women's and girls' football event (city of Lepoglava) and best grassroots football event for teenagers (FC Mladost Zdralovi). We are especially pleased that our photo epitomising the joy and value of grassroots football was recognised and won the third prize in the photo contest. At its general

meeting, the CFF presented its youth trophy, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the award, which recognises major contributions to the quality of youth work. We are also pleased that membership of the Croatian national team fan club has increased. The club has expanded its activities and organises seminars about cheering and supporting the team.

This year we celebrate two significant anniversaries, the first being the 70th anniversary of the first Croatian national team match. At the time, the CFF was part of Yugoslavia but exercised its right to play as an independent team.

It was on 2 April 1940, in Zagreb, that Croatia played Switzerland, winning 4-0. The return match, played in Berne on 21 April 1940, as also won by Croatia, with a score of 1-0. It is also almost 20 years since the first match by a fully independent Croatian national football team, which took place on 17 October 1990 in Zagreb, where Croatia beat the USA 2-1. This was the beginning of a successful story for our national team which,

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



### Satisfied with the draw in Warsaw

In the qualifying competition for EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, the national team of Bosnia-Herzegovina will play in Group D against France, Romania, Belarus, Albania and Luxembourg. The new head coach, Safet Susic, attended the draw in Warsaw and expressed satisfaction with the result. Safet Susic, who had a successful playing career in France, at Paris Saint-Germain, wanted to be in the same group as France.

It is interesting that the head coach of France, Raymond Domenech, also played for Paris Saint-Germain in the 1981/82 season, while Susic played there from 1982 until 1991.

"I am satisfied with the draw. I wanted France in our group and we were lucky. They are favourites to win the group, and we will fight with Romania for second place. However, we cannot underestimate any of the teams in our group," Susic said.

in the independent Republic of Croatia, has put Croatian football firmly on the world football map, qualifying for European Football Championship and World Cup final tournaments in six out of eight chances.

The EURO 2012 qualifying draw in Warsaw has put us in a group with a team that we have not played before, Georgia, which we are pleased about. With a match against Belgium in Brussels, our national team starts its preparations for the qualifying competition and we hope that the future performances of our national team will take us to EURO 2102 in Poland and Ukraine. ■

Ante Pavlovic

## DENMARK



### More female leaders in Danish football

Talent development is not just something that takes place on the pitch. The Danish FA has just finished a new talent development programme on the management side, which went by the name of 'New talents in football management'.

The aim of the project was to get more women interested in the political and management side of football and to have more women on the management boards of clubs and at a regional and national organisational level. Expectations and interest were big from the very beginning, both from the potential

participants and the football organisation: "Women's football in Denmark is on the move and we have a large number of girls and women playing the game. Now we need those positive numbers also to be reflected in the boardrooms. We need to start now!" was the message of the president of the Danish FA, Allan Hansen, at the beginning of 2009.

A one-year management course aimed at women in particular was soon a reality and started in 2009, with 24 talents selected to start the course. Most of the selected participants were involved in Danish football in one way or another, mostly at a very local level.

The themes of the course were personal development, the organisation and future expectations.

As a part of the course, the participants had mentors from the highest level in Danish football, among them almost the whole board of the Danish FA, including the president. The objective of the mentors was to coach and help the new talents to identify the management areas they wanted to be involved in.

The expectations of the Danish FA were and still are clear: this is only the beginning



#### Croatia

The national team in its first international match, back in 1940



**Bosnia-Herzegovina**  
The press conference given by Safet Susic (left) with one of his assistants, Elvir Baljic

The new head coach has selected new assistants. They are Borce Sredojevic, who was one of the assistants of former coach Miroslav Blazevic, and Elvir Baljic, former national team player. Elvir Baljic played 39 matches for his country and scored 14 times. In the EURO 2000 qualifying campaign, he scored all four goals in Bosnia-Herzegovina's 4-1 win against Estonia in Tallinn. Tomislav Piplica will be goalkeeping coach. He played in goal for his country nine times.

The match schedule for the EURO 2012 Group D qualifying group was agreed on in Luxembourg. The head coach and his assistants are satisfied with that as well. The Bosnian national team will play three matches this year, starting in Luxembourg on 3 September, and then welcoming the French national team four days later. In their last qualifying match this year, Susic's team play Albania in Tirana on 8 October.

By way of preparation, the national team have several friendly matches lined up. The new head coach made his debut against Ghana on 3 March at the Asim Ferhatovic Hase Olympic stadium in Sarajevo. Two more friendly matches are scheduled in the first half of this year: away to Sweden on 29 May and away to Germany on 3 June. ■

Fuad Kravac

## ESTONIA



### Women's season kicks off earlier than ever

The women's football season in Estonia got off to a record early start this year, with the super cup match already taking place on 20 March. The league, in which the number of participants has also broken the record, will start on 10 April.

The reason for the early start was the Estonian women's national team World Cup qualifiers against Croatia on 27 March and

of more women being interested in football politics and management.

"Our vision with this more specialised education in football management has been to make sure that the new management talents will play a more active part in developing Danish football, but also take on an ambassador's role to encourage even more women to get involved in the management side of football. I know that the Danish Football Association is ready for more female leaders and it will be very interesting to follow the participants in the future," said Poul Gilling, head of education at the Danish FA.

In Denmark, over 60,000 girls and women play football. At present, there is one woman on the board of the Danish FA. ■

Pia Schou Nielsen

## ENGLAND



### FA advises Algerian counterparts on stadium safety

The Football Association paid a visit to Algeria earlier this month to participate in a seminar on stadium safety and security as part of the memorandum of understanding between The FA and the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The recent success of the Algerian national side and a vast interest in league football has led to increased match attendance. Keen to ensure the safety of its supporters and security of its stadiums, the Federation of Algerian Football (FAF) invited two experts from the UK, accompanied by The FA's international development manager, Maria de León, to share the English experience.

Chris Whalley, The FA's senior manager for stadium safety and security, and Bryan Drew, director of the UK Football Policing Unit, both delivered presentations which were well received by the Algerian delegation. Representatives of the FAF, the ministry of youth and sport, and the police also gave talks, joined by researchers from local universities who presented their findings.

"The FA was delighted to take part in this seminar. We can all benefit from sharing experiences in this way," said Whalley. "The welcome and hospitality that we were given by the Algerian FA was first class," he added.

Although the FAF is facing some issues that differ from England, there were similarities to be drawn from hearing about how England has dealt with football-related violence. Mohamed Mecherara, vice-president of the Algerian federation, was delighted with the seminar and congratulated Chris and Bryan on their "brilliant and highly competent presentations, from which we can learn a lot." ■

Maria de Leon

Serbia on 31 March. The season will end in the second half of October.

The first round of the women's Meistriliiga takes place on 10 April, with six teams starting the title race. The titleholders, FC Levadia, face last year's runners-up, FC Flora, in the opening match, while Pärnu JK, who finished last season in third place, travel to southern Estonia to play Põlva FC Lootos, who finished fourth in their debut year. The third fixture of the first day opposes the fifth and sixth-placed teams from last season, JK Tallinna Kalev and JK Tammeka from Tartu.

Altogether, the women's football divisions in Estonia, including at youth level, comprise 47 teams, which is a record. In comparison, in 2005 there were only 16 teams playing in the girls' and women's championships, while back in 1999 only six teams entered the women's championship and there was no youth league.

"It is clear that we must work hard to increase participation, as compared with our neighbouring countries, such as Finland and Sweden, we are lagging far behind. What we have achieved up to now is a small victory. But it is just the start," said Aivar Pohlak, president of the Estonian Football Association (EJL).

The Estonian women's cup final will be held on 28 September, with the preliminary rounds having already started last autumn. FC Levadia are the reigning cup holders, having beaten FC Flora in last season's final.

The Estonian women's national team has an important season ahead, with eight World Cup qualifiers, including five home matches and the traditional Baltic Cup in May. Estonia, favourites for the competition in May, have won the last two women's Baltic Cups, beating Latvia and Lithuania.

"Matches between neighbours are very important for us; it is a matter of principle

and we take it very seriously. We have been working hard and want to win the cup again," says Keith Boanas, head coach of the Estonian women's national team, who also manages the U15, U17, U19 and U23 teams.

"We must also place a lot of emphasis on grassroots work. With this in mind, the first ever Estonian women's football festival will be held on 22 August, with the World Cup qualifier between Estonia and Croatia being the highlight of the day. Another of our aims is to encourage women to take coaching courses and to design courses which focus more on how to train girls and women," Boanas said.

The EJL has also established a five-year women's football development plan and set general principles for an even longer term. One of the key components of the plan is a scheme to help and encourage clubs to take on new girls' teams, with the EJL providing support if certain requirements are met – for example, having qualified coaches as well as suitable facilities. ■

Mihkel Uibolet

#### Estonia

FC Flora (Pille Raadik, in white) will be trying to swap last year's silver medal for gold this year.



Lembit Peegel

## FRANCE



### Lower Normandy gears up for the European Under-19 Championship final round

The Basse-Normandie football league is hosting the final round of the European Under-19 Championship from 18 to 30 July. For several months already, the local organising committee has been putting the finishing touches to the organisation of the event, for which festive and friendly are the key words.

"France has already demonstrated in the past that it knows how to organise big international competitions and we are going to prove it again with this European Under-19 final round, which we are very proud to be hosting in Basse-Normandie," said Christian Teinturier, chairman of the local organising committee, who cannot wait for the event to get under way on 18 July. In the meantime, all his team are busy finalising the organisation of the tournament. The local organising committee, which is composed of members of the Basse-Normandie football league, members of the French Football Federation and representatives of the host cities, has been meeting once a month since December to deal with all the organisational aspects, ranging from accommodation to transport and also covering ticketing, marketing, safety and security, sports equipment, protocol, volunteers, promotion and the media. The aim was to be as professional as possible in all areas and to leave nothing to chance. Five towns and cities will be hosting matches in the tournament: Saint-Lô, Mondeville, Bayeux, Flers and Caen, whose magnificent Stade d'Ornano will stage the final on 30 July. "Basse-Normandie loves its football, as the excitement being caused by this European championship goes to prove," Christian Teinturier added. "We are all working hand in hand to ensure that the event is a wonderful festival characterised by respect and friendship." As the event fast approaches, another step was taken in March, when the communication campaign was presented at a press conference attended by the national technical director, Gérard Houllier, and Francis Smerecki, coach of the French Under-19 team. ■

Yann Perrin

#### France

A site visit to one of the European Under-19 Championship venues



## GERMANY



### Deutsche Bahn AG becomes national supporter of 2011 Women's World Cup

Deutsche Bahn AG has become a national supporter of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany. This news was announced by Rüdiger Grube, chairman of Deutsche Bahn AG, Theo Zwanziger, president of the German Football Association, and Steffi Jones,

#### Germany

Theo Zwanziger, Rüdiger Grube and Steffi Jones at the press conference

president of the local organising committee, at a press conference held before the Germany v Argentina match in Munich at the beginning of March. The group of six national supporters of the first FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Germany is therefore complete 16 months before the opening match kicks off in Berlin on 26 June 2011.

"We are delighted to have Deutsche Bahn AG on our team as a national supporter of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011. Deutsche Bahn is world renowned, both as an outstanding mobility and logistics service provider and for its commitment to football. This was emphatically demonstrated by the company's role as an official supplier to the 2006 FIFA World Cup. That's why knowing we have Deutsche Bahn with us again in 2011 was a matter of the utmost importance to us," Theo Zwanziger said. ■

Stephan Brause

## ISRAEL



### Israel FA holds first FIFA women's football seminar

The Israel Football Association (IFA) has held its FIFA women's football seminar.

The seminar was attended by senior women's football administrators from FIFA, as well as the coaches of the senior, Under-19 and Under-17 Israeli women's national teams, former and current Israeli women's national team players, and coaches from Israeli women's league teams.

The seminar addressed ways of developing women's football in Israel, by expanding infrastructure, finding resources to fund women's football activities, and creating opportunities for girls who want to play football.

Women's football representatives from the FIFA development division reviewed developments in women's football worldwide in recent years and proposed ways to change the image of women's football, and the right way to market it, and provided strategic tools for consolidating the next steps in the development of women's football in Israel.

At the end of the seminar, a joint meeting was held to discuss various issues, including how to recruit girls to teams in Israel by appealing to their parents, and the need to change the image of the sport in Israel.

Rotem Kamer, deputy CEO of the IFA, said: "The IFA considers the promotion and development of women's football in Israel a primary objective. This seminar exposed representatives from the sport in Israel to new ideas and to new ways of thinking about the development and marketing of women's football in Israel."

Sharon Zeevi, responsible for advancing women's football in the IFA, added: "Football can open doors for girls. To advance women's football, we need to go out and recruit girls, and I believe that in time, the change in women's football in Israel will be felt." ■

Nimrod Suzin



#### Israel

A seminar to give a boost to women's football in Israel

## KAZAKHSTAN



### Memorandum of understanding with the German FA

A memorandum of understanding between the Football Federation of Kazakhstan (FFK) and the German Football Federation (DFB) was signed at the DFB's headquarters on 22 February. Sayan Khamitzyanov, general secretary of the FFK, and Wolfgang Niersbach, his DFB counterpart, put their signatures to the memorandum.

Cooperation between the football associations of the two countries goes back a long way. German coaches have always worked in Kazakhstan and, in turn, quite a number of footballers from Kazakhstan football schools play in Germany. In 2003, the Mittelrhein regional team visited our country to play a number of friendly matches. The same year, young Kazakhstan players paid a visit to Germany. German experts often arrange workshops on coaching and sports medicine for Kazakhstan colleagues. From now on, however, football cooperation between Kazakhstan and Germany will take a new direction.

## LIECHTENSTEIN



### LFV and SFV cooperation

The football associations of Liechtenstein (LFV) and Switzerland (SFV) have reinforced their long-standing partnership and sealed a new agreement on their future cooperation. Under the agreement, Liechtenstein's clubs will continue to be allowed to compete in the Swiss championships and one team from Liechtenstein will be able to play in one of the top two leagues in Switzerland.

**FYR Macedonia**  
Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, president of the FFM, gives the starting signal for work on the national training centre to begin.



LFV-affiliated clubs are also members of the SFV and have essentially the same rights and obligations as all the other SFV members, except that only one team from Liechtenstein may play in the Swiss Football League (Challenge League and Super League). The LFV has had to accept this restriction, although it argued for a system in which promotion and relegation would be dependent on sporting criteria alone. ■

Anton Banzer

## MALTA



### Malta hosts UEFA referees course

Malta was recently chosen as the venue for the 19th edition of the UEFA referees winter course, an event which the European football organisation held on the sunny island in cooperation with the Malta FA, which was holding a series of activities to commemorate 100 years of league football and 50 since the Maltese association joined FIFA and UEFA as full members.

The event was conducted in two separate courses, an introductory and an advanced course. The 52 participants in the first course, hailing from 34 countries, had a thorough induction exercise which included an assessment of their physical, medical and mental conditions, followed by a full FIFA fitness test and individual interviews to test their abilities in connection with the control of matches. The aim was to prepare the referees for the youth mini-tournaments and the UEFA Europa League and Champions League qualifying matches.

The advanced course involved the current 27 premier category and 26 elite referees, some of whom will be in charge of matches

at the World Cup in South Africa in June and July. The aim of the UEFA's Referees Committee and refereeing services was to prepare these referees to reach their peak physical and mental condition, which will help them to make good instant decisions.

These winter courses, which included the successful participation of four top Maltese referees, were another important step towards better harmonisation of refereeing standards worldwide and an exercise which will possibly lead to there one day being six referees officiating at matches, with the addition of an assistant referee on each goal-line. ■

Alex Vella

#### Malta

The referees during one of the theory sessions



Sayan Khamitshanov, the FFK's general secretary, said: "The memorandum of understanding between the Football Federation of Kazakhstan and the Deutscher Fussball-Bund was signed on the initiative of the FFK's president, Adilbek Jaxybekov, and following successful negotiations in this direction. It is symbolic that the document has been signed in the year declared by our head of state as the year of

#### Kazakhstan

Wolfgang Niersbach and Sayan Khamitshanov at the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony



Germany in Kazakhstan. The significance of the signed memorandum is difficult to overestimate. The first task in our planned cooperation is the education and further education of Kazakhstan coaching staff in conjunction with top-class German football academies and football clubs. A considerable part of the joint projects is dedicated to youth education programmes. Young players at Kazakhstan football schools will get a chance to practise in matches and joint training sessions with their peers from Germany and under the direction of German coaches. The authoritative position of the Deutscher Fussball-Bund in the world of football shows that Kazakhstan football has got a powerful partner of world renown which has great expertise in training players."

Wolfgang Niersbach, the DFB's general secretary, said: "The signed memorandum is a historical moment in relations between our football associations and our states in general. It is good that we mutually drew up the EURO

## FYR MACEDONIA



### Work begins on new training centre

The beginning of March was a momentous time for Macedonian football. In collaboration with the government of FYR Macedonia, the municipality of Aerodrom and the Football Federation of FYR of Macedonia (FFM), and in the presence of members of the FFM, national team players, football friends, journalists and many others, the president of FYR Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski, officially marked the start of work on a new national football training centre, which will be the first of its kind in our country.

Work will begin with the installation of four football pitches from the government programme for providing 50 pitches throughout the country. This will be followed by a 3,000-capacity mini-stadium and office building for the FFM.

This project is expected to take 18 months and will be realised with money from the UEFA HatTrick programme, as well as funding from the FFM and the support of the government, which supplied the site free of charge.

"With this project we are fulfilling the promise we made to Michel Platini during his visit to [FYR] Macedonia two years ago," said Mr Gruevski.

"This is a big day for football in our country. I expect to raise the quality of Macedonian football and to instigate the installation of many training centres in the country, as well as the creation of our very first football academy," Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski said.

The mayor of Aerodrom, Ivica Konevski, was very satisfied that all the necessary building permission for the centre had been issued so promptly. ■

Zoran Nikolovski

2012 qualifying round fixture list in Group A so that this very year, which has been declared as the year of Germany in Kazakhstan, our national teams will play each other in Astana. The basic duty of the DFB, according to the memorandum of understanding, is to provide assistance in educational programmes, which implies educating Kazakhstan coaches in Germany as well as German coaches running courses in Kazakhstan. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Football Federation of Kazakhstan, we intend to arrange friendly matches between teams from our two countries, particularly youth teams. And, of course, we are also ready to share tools and aids for player and coach education. " ■

Alexandr Keplin



## Moldova

The pro licence holders with UEFA and FAM instructors

Rashkevich (FC Sheriff), Igor Ursachi (FC Inter-sport-Aroma), Ilie Carp, Serghei Dubrovin and Nicolae Mandricenco.

During the official presentation ceremony, Pavel Cebanu, president of the FA of Moldova (FAM), said: *"I am delighted and proud of this event! I want to express my special thanks to Ivan Danilant and Ghenadie Scurtul from the national coaches' school, who have done a great job during the last few years and thanks to their work we now have coaches with the top qualification!"*

During 2008 and 2009, the FAM, in conjunction with UEFA, organised the first six-stage series of UEFA pro licence coaching courses in Moldova. The lecturers on these courses were all known technical specialists in European football: Jozef Venglos, Piotr Maranda, Erich Rutenmüller, Mircea Radulescu, Gunter Gorenzel-Simonitch and Heinz Werner. The course activities were coordinated by Ivan Danilant, the FAM's coach education director, and by Ghenadie Scurtul, technical director of the FAM. ■

Press Office

## MOLDOVA



### 13 coaches get top qualification

After the UEFA Executive Committee in Funchal, Madeira (Portugal), had approved Moldova as a new signatory to the UEFA Coaching Convention at pro level, 13 coaches became UEFA pro licence holders for the first time in the history of Moldovan football. They are: Igor Dobrovolskiy (FC Academia UTM), Serghei Chirilov (Under-21 national team), Vlad Goian (FC Iskra-Stal), Ivan Tabanov, Eugen Malovata (both FC Zimbru Chisinau), Emil Caras (FC Kuban, Russia), Sergiu Caraman (FC Sfintul Gheorghe), Mikhaïls Zemliniskis (Under-21 national team of Latvia), Vitali

## NETHERLANDS



### Dutch cities queue up for Women's EURO 2013

Dutch cities have shown a lively interest in hosting matches in the European Women's Championship final round in 2013. Shortly after announcing its bid to host the event and inviting cities and professional clubs to express an interest, the Dutch FA (KNVB) received applications from more than a dozen cities.

No fewer than 19 cities eventually replied. Unfortunately, some of the stadiums exceed UEFA's capacity requirements while others had to withdraw because their pitch was artificial rather than natural turf.

Cities that will be seriously considered for the bid are Den Bosch (FC Den Bosch), Den Haag (ADO), Doetinchem (De Graafschap), Emmen (FC Emmen), Kerkrade (Roda JC), Leeuwarden (Cambuur), Maastricht (MVV), Nijmegen (NEC), Rotterdam (Sparta), Sittard (Fortuna), Tilburg (Willem II), Venlo (VVV) and Waalwijk (RKC). A maximum of eight will be included in the bid that will be presented to UEFA in June.

Harry Been, KNVB general secretary, was more than happy with the interest shown. *"In recent years the Dutch FA has been lucky to successfully stage some international events and matches. Cities and clubs are aware that football events bring a festive atmosphere and lots of publicity. The UEFA Cup final in Eindhoven in 2006 and the European Under-21 Championship in 2007 were top-level men's events. Now it is time to put women's football in the spotlight. After the Dutch women's team's bronze medal at the Women's EURO 2009 in Finland, Dutch football fans have warmly embraced women's football and everyone involved is most willing to give their very best to host the European championship in 2013."* ■

Rob de Leede

## NORTHERN IRELAND



### Prestigious distinction

The Irish FA's marketing and communications department has been rewarded for its hard work in 2009 by winning the prestigious Chartered Institute of Marketing's UK award for small and medium enterprise.

The winner of the award, which was announced at a gala dinner in London, is judged on a number of criteria, including innovative and creative ideas, evidence of added-on value to the organisation, positive changes in audience behaviour, customer satisfaction, time and budget management, and an adaptability to meet the current financial climate and changing markets. All of these factors should show a return on the marketing investment by the organisation.

This is the first time that the marketing and communications department has been recognised on the national stage and the head of the department, Geoff Wilson, is delighted to have received the award. He said: *"Firstly I would like to congratulate the marketing and communications team on this fantastic achievement. The CIM is the world's largest organisation for professional marketers and to be given this award is a clear indication that we are doing our jobs well. What makes winning this award much more special is that we*



#### Northern Ireland

A prestigious award for the Irish FA's marketing and communications department

## Montenegro

Zlatko Kranjcar, the new national coach



## MONTENEGRO



### Kranjcar ready for the challenge

UEFA's youngest national team has a new coach, Zlatko Kranjcar, a well respected Croatian, who has taken over from Zoran Filipovic at the helm of the Montenegrin national team. The new coach is looking forward to the challenge:

*"I am honoured to have been appointed head coach of such a talented team as Montenegro. I realise that people will expect a lot from me and my team and that the fans will expect us to do better than in the last qualifying campaign. But I am ready. I accepted the invitation of Dejan Savicevic [president of the Football Association of Montenegro] because I am really enthusiastic about the challenge,"* Kranjcar said.

Montenegro will face tough competition in Group G of the EURO 2012 qualifying competition, in which they will come up against England, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Wales. Despite the strong rating of the opponents, Kranjcar believes that his team is strong and talented enough to fight for a place in the play-offs.

*"We have a highly attractive group, which is very good and motivating. The quality of our opponents will stimulate my players to give their best in every single game. I strongly believe that we have a chance to fight our way through to the play-offs. England are on another level, but I strongly believe that Montenegro are as good as other teams in the group. My players are more experienced now. They have already been through one qualifying campaign and I believe that their best will come when it is needed the most,"* Kranjcar said.

Montenegro will play four friendly games before the start of their EURO 2012 qualifying campaign. ■

Ivan Radovic

*were up against marketing teams from all areas of business and not just those from other sporting organisations. Our marketing plan and strategy for domestic football continues to be very successful, with attendance rising year on year. I must also thank all of our sponsors and clubs, who have played a major part in making our marketing strategy so successful."*

Geoff continued: *"A lot of our marketing work goes on behind the scenes and people may not realise the amount of time and effort that goes into marketing such things as a league or cup launch, as well as all the other initiatives that go on throughout the year, and I cannot praise the team enough for all the hard work they have done."* ■

Graeme Beggs

## NORWAY



### New general secretary appointed

Paul Glomsaker, the new general secretary of the Norwegian FA, had his first day at work on 1 February. "Football is a dynamic and important part of Norwegian sport and society. I'm looking forward to making a contribution and to developing Norwegian football further," Paul Glomsaker said when he was named as new general secretary at the end of last year. Mr Glomsaker is a familiar name in Norwegian sport, as he was director general of the department of sport within the ministry of culture and church affairs for the last nine years.

Elections are held at the Norwegian FA congress every two years. This year, the general meeting is being held from 5 to 7 March. About 300 delegates are expected. One of the main tasks this year is the election of a new board. At the time this article is being written, the congress has not yet been held. To find out the result, check out our websites: [www.fotball.no](http://www.fotball.no) and [www.forbundstinget.no](http://www.forbundstinget.no)

Norway will put together its first official national futsal team when it meets the Republic of Ireland in a friendly match. Two matches will be played in Dublin on 30 and 31 March.

"We are looking forward to the two matches against Ireland, who also are quite new to futsal. Throughout this project, we'll be able to see how our national team standards compare with international standards, especially in terms of skills," says Esten O. Sæther, head coach of the Norwegian team, who is pleased that his team are getting a shot at playing other nations. ■

Lene Forfang Paterson/Le Hang Duong



## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



### Easter camps all over the country

Last February, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and insurance group Aviva announced that the Soccer Sisters programme would be returning for the second year in a row, with even more Easter camps running all over the country.

#### Republic of Ireland

Internationals Aine O'Gorman and Stephanie Roche helped to launch the Easter camps programme.

The girls-only camps, which are now in their second year, cater for 7 to 11-year-olds with the aim of increasing the number of girls playing football and improving their skills in a fun, structured and safe coaching environment. FAI development officers, who coach the camps, link the camps to local clubs to ensure that girls wishing to continue playing have the option to do so.

Republic of Ireland international Gillian McDonald said, "I started playing football when I was young and would have loved to have had the opportunity to play at an Aviva Soccer Sisters camp. I visited the camp last year and I saw how much fun the girls were having and also how they grew in confidence as players over the time I was there." ■

Fran Whearty

## SWITZERLAND



### Footballer wins winter Olympic gold

Something extraordinary happened at the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver: Mike Schmid, a football player for FC Frutigen (competing in the 3. Liga, the fifth highest division in Switzerland), won the ski cross gold medal.

The World Cup leader from Frutigen beat Andreas Matt (Austria) and Audun Groenvold (Norway) in the final, thus continuing a Swiss tradition that began in Lillehammer in 1994: every time a new event has been introduced at the Winter Games, the gold medal has been won by a Swiss athlete, i.e. Sonny Schönbächler

#### Switzerland

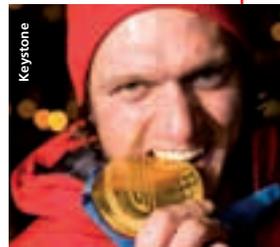
Mike Schmid wins gold.

(freestyle skiing, aerials/1994), Gian Simmen (halfpipe/1998), Philipp Schoch (parallel giant slalom/2002) and Tanja Frieden (snowboard cross/2006).

The Swiss Football Association is proud to have a gold medallist in its ranks. Its president, Peter Gilliéron, and general secretary, Alex Miescher, congratulated the man from the Bernese Oberland immediately after his victory.

Mike Schmid has represented FC Frutigen in four matches so far during the current 3. Liga season, posing a real goal threat to opposing defenders. ■

Pierre Benoit



Keystone

## TURKEY



### Big rise for both league and national team TV rights

Digiturk, a Turkish pay-TV provider, has won the broadcasting rights for the A package of the Turkish Super League. The contract, worth \$2 billion, covers the seasons from 2010/11 to 2013/14. The B package, which includes 15-minute highlights of Super League matches, live broadcast rights for TFF first

division matches and the sales rights for three-minute broadcasts goes to TRT (Turkish Radio Television), while the C package (mobile rights) have been sold to Turk Telekom. In all, the three packages are worth \$420 million a season, excluding taxes. The cumulative value of the previous deals was \$186 million. In other words, from the beginning of the next season, there will be a 126% increase in broadcast revenue for the top two Turkish leagues.

Meanwhile, NTV will broadcast Turkish national team matches, including the qualifiers for EURO 2012 and the 2014 FIFA World Cup. NTV paid \$28 million, which amounts to an 87% increase. For the first time, national and international rights for home games have been given to the same network. Also, during the live broadcast of matches, any virtual and banner advertisements can take place. ■

Altug Soytuna

## UKRAINE



### Partnership agreement between FFU and BFF

In mid-December the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) and the Belarus Football Federation (BFF) signed a partnership agreement for the UEFA pro coaching licence. The FFU president, Grigoriy Surkis, and his Belarusian counterpart, Gennadi Nevyglas, signed a deal enabling Belarus coaches to gain the pro licence in Ukraine.

Later, Victor Dogadailo, member of the FFU's scientific panel who holds the UEFA pro coaching licence, visited Minsk to deliver a lecture to local coaches. Using the latest technology and

examples from his experience at FC Shakhtar Donetsk and FC Chornomorets Odesa, Dogadailo covered topics such as dealing with players, analysing opponents' strengths and weaknesses, and sorting out players' problems on and off the pitch. He also ran theoretical and practical sessions for coaches preparing for the UEFA B licence.

Another international project was also launched in December. Grassroots football development, overseen by UEFA, will be implemented in Ukraine through Open Fun Football School projects. In order to participate in this initiative, the FFU will sign an agreement with the Cross Cultures Project Association. As a result, starting this year, 12 specialised camps a year will take place throughout Ukraine for boys and girls who want to play football. ■

Ivan Dyvak



FFU

Ukraine  
A classroom session with Victor Dogadailo

# Committee week in Nyon

February 2010



Photos: UEFA/Woods

# Communications

## Birthdays – Calendar



UEFA-Weed

### Birthday greetings

Grzegorz Lato (Poland), vice-chairman of the Football Committee, celebrates his 60th birthday on 8 April. On 23 April, Roland Tis (Belgium), match delegate, joins him at the same milestone. Vlastibor Minarovjeh Jr (Slovakia), doping control officer, turns 50 on 10 April. Also reaching the half-century mark in April are Umberto Gandini (Italy), ECA representative on the Professional Football Strategy Council, on 11 April, Charles Schaack (Luxembourg), member of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, on 17 April, and Knud Stadsgaard (Denmark), referee observer, on 28 April.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns to:

- Carlo De Gaudio (Italy, 1.4)
- Jan Peeters (Belgium, 2.4)
- Kaj Østergaard (Denmark, 3.4)
- Dennis Cruise (Republic of Ireland, 3.4)
- Thomas Grimm (Switzerland, 3.4)
- Yoav Strauss (Israel, 3.4)
- Christian Kofoed (Denmark, 4.4)
- Jan Ekstrand (Sweden, 5.4)
- Lennart Wangel (Finland, 5.4)
- Momir Djurdjevac (Montenegro, 5.4)
- Alexey Sorokin (Russia, 5.4)
- Aleksandra Nikolovska (FYR Macedonia, 5.4)
- Athanassios Briakos (Greece, 6.4)
- Pavol Peracek (Slovakia, 7.4)
- Jacques Devismes (France, 8.4)
- Jim Fleeting (Scotland, 8.4)
- Yevgeniy Stolitenko (Ukraine, 8.4)
- Márton Esterházy (Hungary, 9.4)
- Jean-Claude Blanc (Italy, 9.4)
- Ladislav Svoboda (Czech Republic, 9.4)
- Zoran Petrovic (Serbia, 10.4)
- Panagiotis Tsarouchas (Greece, 10.4)
- Eduard Dervishaj (Spain, 11.4)
- Rodger Gifford (Wales, 12.4)
- François De Keersmaecker (Belgium, 12.4)
- Paolo Piani (Italy, 13.4)
- Gusztav Bienerth (Hungary, 14.4)
- Hanna van Ginhoven (Netherlands, 14.4)
- Georgios Bikas (Greece, 15.4)
- Manuel Enrique Mejuto Gonzalez (Spain, 16.4)
- Ernst Ravnaas (Norway, 18.4)
- Oguz Sarvan (Turkey, 18.4)
- Michael Kuchenbecker (Germany, 19.4)
- Jean-Louis Valentin (France, 19.4)
- Jean Appietto (France, 20.4)
- Jean-Luc Veuthey (Switzerland, 20.4)
- Vitor Manuel Melo Pereira (Portugal, 21.4)
- Martinus van den Bekerom (Netherlands, 21.4)
- Alexandru Burlac (Moldova, 21.4)
- Patrick Fenech (Malta, 22.4)
- Jan Damgaard (Denmark, 22.4)
- Morgan Norman (Sweden, 22.4)

- Vladimir Petrov (Ukraine, 22.4)
- Mehmet S. Binnet (Turkey, 23.4)
- Jacques Lambert (France, 24.4)
- Nebojsa Ivkovic (Serbia, 24.4)
- Avraham Luzon (Israel, 24.4)
- Sandor Piller (Hungary, 24.4)
- Frederick Roy Millar (Northern Ireland, 25.4)
- Ole Myhrvold (Norway, 25.4)
- Philippe Verbiest (Belgium, 25.4)
- Daniel Ryser (Switzerland, 25.4)
- Philip Gartside (England, 27.4)
- Jan Carlsen (Denmark, 27.4)
- Henk van de Wetering (Netherlands, 27.4)
- Zdzislaw Krecina (Poland, 28.4)
- Gudmundur Ingi Jónsson (Iceland, 29.4)
- George Frank (Israel, 29.4)
- Robin Howe (Scotland, 29.4)
- Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros (Portugal, 30.4)

### Forthcoming events

#### Events

##### 7.4.2010, Vaduz

Draw for the final round of the European Under-17 Championship

##### 12–16.4.2010, Florence

UEFA Coach Educators Course

##### 12.4.2010, Nyon

Professional Football Strategy Council

##### 16.4.2010, Skopje

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

#### Competitions

##### 1.4.2010

UEFA Europa League: quarter-finals (first legs)

##### 6/7.4.2010

UEFA Champions League: quarter-finals (return legs)

##### 8.4.2010

UEFA Europa League: quarter-finals (return legs)

##### 10/11.4.2010

UEFA Women's Champions League: semi-finals (first legs)

##### 17/18.4.2010

UEFA Women's Champions League: semi-finals (return legs)

##### 20/21.4.2010

UEFA Champions League: semi-finals (first legs)

##### 22.4.2010

UEFA Europa League: semi-finals (first legs)

##### 23–25.4.2010, Lisbon

UEFA Futsal Cup finals

##### 23/28.4.2010

UEFA Champions League: semi-finals (return legs)

##### 29.4.2010

UEFA Europa League: semi-finals (return legs)

### Notices

■ On 27 February, Christian Andraesen was elected president of the Faroe Islands Football Association.

■ Since 1 March, Ales Zavrl has been the new general secretary of the Football Association of Slovenia.

### Match agents

UEFA has issued two new match agent licences. The holders are:

**Richard Mensah** 10 Dickenson Close  
Edmonton, Londres N9 7 AW, England  
Mob: +44 794 412 2550  
richardmensah87@googlemail.com

#### Scott Hume

Hume International Sports Management  
65 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 2 BX, Scotland  
Tel.: +44 141 331 4167, Fax: +44 141 353 2850  
Mob: +44 797 424 7428  
scott@hume-international.com

In addition, the licence of **Johannes Empl** (Austria) has been renewed for eight years, while **Victor Grove** (Switzerland) has asked for his licence to be cancelled.

### New publication

Never Again, the Polish partner of FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe), has published a guide entitled How to Fight Racism, prepared with the support of UEFA and FARE. Aimed above all at Polish clubs, the CD explains the phenomenon of racism in sport, the forms it takes and how it can be overcome.

### Obituaries

■ **Vlastibor Minarovjeh Sr** (Slovakia), who served on the UEFA Medical Committee from 1986 to 2000 and, before that, as a member of the doping study group, shaping and implementing the first doping controls in European football, passed away during the night of 28 February. He was 83. During his many years of service to UEFA, Vlastibor Minarovjeh undertook, among other assignments, more than 200 missions as a doping control officer. He had been a member of the circle of former UEFA committee members since 2000.

■ **Henrik Niss** (Denmark) a UEFA match agent since 1992, passed away on 23 February aged 51.

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