



60
YEARS · ANS · JAHRE

UEFA·direct

No. 144 | December 2014



IN THIS ISSUE

**Official publication of the
Union of European Football
Associations**

Chief editor:
Emmanuel Deconche

Produced by:
GraphicTouch
CH-1110 Morges

Printing:
Artgraphic Cavin SA
CH-1422 Grandson

Editorial deadline:
11 December 2014

*The views expressed in signed
articles are not necessarily
the official views of UEFA.
The reproduction of articles
published in UEFA-direct
is authorised, provided the
source is indicated.*

Cover:
*The UEFA EURO 2016
mascot, who the public
have named Super Victor*

Photo: Sportsfile

SUPER VICTOR MAKES HIS DEBUT

4

The official mascot for UEFA EURO 2016 was unveiled at the France v Sweden friendly at the Stade Vélodrome in Marseille.



CAPTAINS OF CHANGE

9

UEFA continues to promote diversity, with a new programme targeting the administrative and management structures of football organisations.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11

The UEFA Executive Committee held its final meeting of the year, chaired by Michel Platini, at the House of European Football in Nyon on 4 December.



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DRAWS

12

The draws for the elite rounds of the European Women's Under-19 and Under-17 Championships and for the quarter- and semi-finals of the UEFA Women's Champions League were held at the House of European Football on 19 November.



NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

15





WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IS HERE TO STAY

When the UEFA Executive Committee decided to make what has become a six-year investment in the further development of women's football across Europe in December 2010, it was with the intention of achieving a range of positive outcomes.

The results have surpassed expectations. The HatTrick III investment in the UEFA Women's Football Development Programme – together with the individual efforts of the 54 UEFA member associations – has seen European women's football reach a new level and set new benchmarks.

But with more players participating and more leagues being established across Europe, women's football needs structures that can sustain and ensure the continued development of the sport. UEFA has been organising initiatives to keep up with this demand, specifically in coaching. A pilot project will be implemented with 11 UEFA member associations in 2015, to organise new UEFA B licence courses in connection with existing development tournaments, to help further the recruitment and training of women coaches, just as the tournaments are nurturing the development of players, staff and referees. Not only will this help us build for the future; it will also ensure that the structures on the sidelines keep pace with the improvements in the quality of the football on the field of play.

Also, at elite level, it is a great source of satisfaction to see that new heights continue to be reached. A record 47 teams will be participating in the next European Women's Championship, competing for a place in the

newly-expanded 16-team UEFA Women's EURO 2017, to be staged at seven venues in the Netherlands.

There is positive news from an administrative standpoint as well, with women now playing a more active role than ever before, and further change is likely, as the Women in Football Leadership Programme is proving. Designed to identify potential women leaders and to equip them with the requisite skills to achieve their management aspirations, the initiative has provided and will continue to provide invaluable support to the increasing percentage of female staff who work at managerial level in UEFA's member associations.

This topic will remain at the top of UEFA's list of priorities. All women and girls are encouraged to play or to get involved in the sport in other ways. Make no mistake, women's football is here to stay.

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

FIRST OUTING FOR SUPER VICTOR

The official UEFA EURO 2016 mascot has arrived! Named Super Victor by fans in a record-breaking poll and dressed in the national colours of the tournament's host country, France, this little boy is hoping to unite all fans thanks to his footballing talent, empathy and good humour.

Since Pinocchio in 1980, every European Football Championship final round has had its own mascot. With the next EURO being held in France, UEFA commissioned an agency based in Lyon, one of the host cities, to create the official mascot's identity.

INSPIRATION

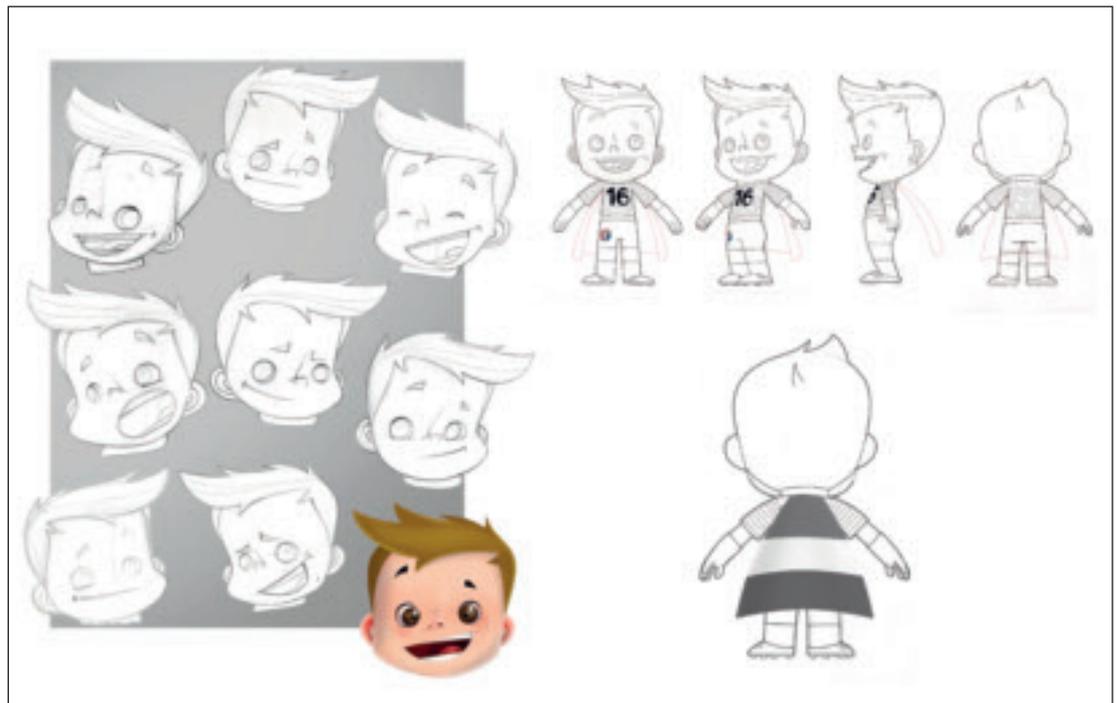
"The process of creating this mascot was relatively straightforward," explains Erik Berchet-Moguet, creative director at Zebrand, the agency chosen by UEFA. "We presented three ideas to UEFA, and they chose one of them. Our objective was to appeal to young fans, to create a scenario and a character that would be meaningful for football supporters, but would, in certain respects, also have very strong cultural ties to France." The mascot's story is that of a curious and adventurous little boy who plays football. He may not have been the most skilful player on the pitch, but he was very determined. A cartoon about him shows how he got his superpowers after going to fetch a ball that he had kicked off the pitch. He discovered three magical objects: a cape that enables him to fly, boots that give him amazing football skills, and a EURO 2016 ball. He wears a shirt inspired by a traditional French sailor's shirt, in France's three national colours and bearing the number 16, the year of the tournament.

CREATION

For the first time in UEFA's history, the mascot was presented in 3D. "We wanted to present our ideas in a slightly different way, so we decided to go straight to 3D models," says Erik Berchet-Moguet. It was a process that, as well as being innovative, enabled the mascot's creators to concentrate on his face and expressions. "With any human face, the eyes are very important in terms of the person's expression and how it comes across. That was another reason why we opted for 3D, as it allowed us to make him more endearing and meant that we could be as subtle as possible with all his various expressions," explains Stéphane Dalbec, co-founder of Big Company, which helped Zebrand to create Super Victor.

After the design had been evaluated, the mascot itself was then created in London. UEFA's longstanding partner, Rainbow Productions, was chosen once again. Having already made the last five EURO mascots, the British firm was able to draw on its experience to create Super Victor.

"Once we receive the piece of artwork from the client, we look at it and just see how best we can get a human to wear it," explains Matthew Chapman, production manager at Rainbow Productions. "At the beginning of making a costume, that's when we'll also do fabric approvals."



You can follow the EURO 2016 mascot on Twitter, @SuperVictor

We try to source materials that are easy to maintain and obviously can be washed a great deal. I think with this particular character, the thing which makes him unique has to be the printing. Certainly with the printing on the character shoes, we have never done that before. That's something that we had to research and develop very quickly."

PRESENTATION

From London, the mascot was then taken to the Stade Vélodrome in Marseille, where he was unveiled at the friendly match between France and Sweden on 18 November. Proudly wearing his number 16 shirt, the mascot was welcomed onto the pitch by the stadium announcer, with the crowd cheering and the EURO 2016 logo displayed in the centre circle, shortly before the players' arrival and the national anthems. Then, at half-time, he returned to kick a few balls before meeting the crowd on a tour of the stadium that was broadcast on the big screens.

After this successful introduction, the mascot needed a name. UEFA therefore launched a poll on its website, which attracted 107,790 votes, ten times more than the number received in the EURO 2012 'name the mascots' poll. The mascot was named Super Victor, the clear winner ahead of the other two shortlisted names, Driblou and Goalix. The name, which symbolises victory,



Super Victor watches the team captains exchange pennants ahead of the France v Sweden friendly

perfectly encapsulates the superpowers that the little boy found while playing football. Super Victor will now travel all over France, appearing at events organised by UEFA and its partners between now and the start of the competition on 10 June 2016. He will add a fun dimension wherever he goes, especially among young fans, while embodying the event's values of pride, sharing and respect. ●

“A VERY PROUD MOMENT”

Comedian Quentin Thiriau is Super Victor! After introducing the world to the EURO 2016 mascot at the Stade Vélodrome, he shares with us the view from the inside.

As an actor, what is it like to play the part of the official EURO 2016 mascot?

You feel very proud! Getting the chance to embody the image of a tournament as prestigious as the EURO,

on home soil, with all the values it conveys ... it's a huge responsibility. You certainly feel the pressure a bit. But it's positive pressure, because it's great fun, above all.



A warm reception from the stands

You made your first appearance on 18 November, at the France v Sweden friendly in Marseille. What sort of reception did you get from the fans?

The supporters were excellent. They were happy to get to see the mascot and to have their photos taken with him. And when I started dribbling the ball on the pitch of the Stade Vélodrome, the public really got behind me.

How do you get into character when you put on the Super Victor costume?

The easiest thing is to really take on the personality of the character. Super Victor is a child with an enormous smile. You have to convey this joyful, spirited, dynamic side that children have. And the key ingredient is energy – you need bucket loads to bring this mascot to life and be true to the child in him. ●

UEFA EXTENDS INITIATIVES AGAINST MATCH-FIXING

UEFA has shared new measures designed to prevent match-fixing in football with stakeholders from across the football family.

Aimed at protecting the game, an app for mobile devices has been developed, and more people can also now report information about match-fixing using the integrity reporting platform and freephone number. UEFA – in partnership with FIFPro, the ECA (European Clubs' Association) and the EPFL (Association of European Professional Leagues) – recognises that match-fixing is one of the biggest threats to the integrity and overall well-being of European football.

These developments follow on from the creation in 2009 of the UEFA betting fraud detection system, which monitors all UEFA competition matches and over 30,000 European domestic league matches each year.

Reporting on the move

The app for mobile devices (iPhone, iPad, Android) is available in seven languages and gives a wealth of information related to match-fixing. It includes videos and a frequently asked question sections, alongside the latest news on integrity matters. It also offers the possibility to report incidents of match-fixing and corruption to the integrity reporting platform and to access a personal postbox to obtain any replies which UEFA may give. The app can be downloaded free of charge by searching for 'UEFA Integrity' in the App Store (iPhone) or in Google Play (Android).

The reporting platform and freephone number (+800 0001 0002) have already been in place for several years and were initially made available

to players, referees and coaches to enable them to report any incident of match-fixing directly to UEFA. However, that has now been extended to allow any person with information to contact UEFA, which can be done anonymously if desired. Information is completely confidential although dialogue can be enabled through the use of a personal incident number and password.

Facilitating education

The damage caused by the manipulation of matches or actions within matches has been a major concern of both UEFA President Michel Platini and the UEFA Executive Committee in recent years, and will continue to remain high on the agenda. The key to the long-lasting success of the campaign to rid the game of such practices lies in education, with an e-learning tool on match-fixing in the pipeline to help educate youth players who participate in European competitions. This interactive tool will use a declaration by a player convicted of match-fixing offences in his domestic league, followed by a series of questions which the participant has to answer. UEFA will be able to monitor the answers given and provide participants with further information if necessary.

The e-learning tool supports the regular presentations that are given to young players, referees and coaches in order to make them aware of the dangers of being involved in the manipulation of football events. ●



Education is at the forefront in the fight against match-fixing

60 YEARS OF WRITING HISTORY

UEFA has been celebrating its 60th birthday in 2014, and in our final article on UEFA's history, we look at the recent past, the present, and a challenging future...



Getty Images

Germany's Nadine Angerer saved two penalties in the Women's EURO 2013 final against Norway in Sweden, helping her country to its sixth successive European title

In March 2011, Michel Platini was re-elected for a second four-year term as UEFA President at the 35th Ordinary UEFA Congress in Paris. Mr Platini called on the football family to nurture football's well-being. *"We have a notable duty to think of the next generation – the football that we want to leave to our children and grandchildren,"* he said. *"Let us continue to have the courage to take the necessary decisions to protect football as we love it. We are the guarantors of this football and the guardians of an ideal."*

In 2012, the EURO final round was staged in eastern Europe for the first time, and co-hosts Poland and Ukraine provided a UEFA EURO 2012 to remember. In a tournament marked by attacking football, Spain continued their purple patch by winning a second successive EURO to add to their 2010 World Cup triumph. Future EUROS will feature innovative changes. EURO 2016, awarded to France in 2010, sees the final-round field increased to 24 – while EURO 2020 will be a special 'EURO for Europe', staged in 13 cities across the continent to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first EURO final round. From 2018, the UEFA Nations League will bring added status to national team football.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have been leading lights on the field. Ronaldo set a new record with 17 goals for Real Madrid CF in a

UEFA Champions League season in 2013/14, and FC Barcelona star Messi created the headlines in November 2014 when he became the competition's all-time top scorer on 74 goals.

Messi and Ronaldo won UEFA Champions League titles with their clubs, in 2011 and 2014 respectively. Chelsea FC and FC Bayern München tasted glory in 2012 and 2013. The fledgling UEFA Europa League has gradually strengthened its sporting and public appeal. Today's young players now have their own high-profile taste of continental competition with the UEFA Youth League, launched in 2013. Women's football has blossomed, with a magnificent Women's EURO 2013 in Sweden and innovative work to develop the women's game and introduce more women into senior roles.

Leading from the front

UEFA is leading countless initiatives during its seventh decade – the fight against racism is gathering perpetual intensity, fighting match-fixing is protecting football's essential soul, financial fair play is bringing vital stability to club football, referees are helped by the extra eyes of two additional assistant referees, and the quest for dialogue with football stakeholders has borne fruit, as UEFA interacts with the European authorities, clubs, leagues, players' representatives and the fans. The end of 2014 sees 54 national associations under UEFA's umbrella, and the European body's HatTrick assistance programme is celebrating an immense decade of helping all of them improve their sporting and administrative infrastructures.

It has been a memorable road since 1954. Appropriately, the last word as UEFA ends its 60th year goes to Michel Platini. *"The world is changing,"* the UEFA President said at the Ordinary Congress in March 2014, *"and we are privileged witnesses. In our own way, we are helping to write history... A history that, for us, is 60 years old: 60 years of football; 60 years of passion; 60 years of joy, drama and emotion; 60 years of innovation, but also of respect for tradition; 60 years of incredible drama and charming anecdotes; 60 years of stories great and small; and 60 years of UEFA developing and establishing its authority as a role model in the organisation of football in Europe."* ●

CAPTAINS OF CHANGE – PROMOTING DIVERSITY

An innovative new UEFA project is designed to foster diversity within the management of football in Europe. The Captains of Change programme is being developed to establish a more inclusive environment in European football management.

A key element of UEFA's mission as the umbrella body of European football is to influence the culture of football organisations and to help bring about a situation where these organisations are staffed by people with different origins and backgrounds. The Captains of Change initiative is giving individuals the opportunity to show the leadership and responsibility qualities of a team captain, and effect real change within football bodies.

The programme is open to anyone who works for a national association or UEFA, and UEFA is also helping to fund some of the diversity projects that are implemented during the programme.

Captains of Change has been set up in accordance with the belief that diversity is well-developed on the pitch, but less so within football organisations. Studies also illustrate that diversity in the workplace may have positive effects on results and performance. UEFA's impressive Respect campaign encourages values of respect across the game, but no targeted campaign on advancing diversity within football bodies' management structures has been put in place until now.

"The Captains of Change programme is an exciting new development as far as diversity in football is concerned, and our intention is that it will create equal opportunities for all minorities," said UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino. *"While the campaign for diversity is achieving encouraging results on the field, it is clear that additional work is still needed to guarantee that this also extends into football's administration and management."*

Creating a culture of inclusion

Those individuals who become Captains of Change will be important not only within their organisation, but also within the European football family, as they will be contributing towards establishing a culture of inclusion and equal opportunities irrespective of ethnicity, religion, disability, gender and sexual orientation. They will do so through national and local initiatives to foster diversity in their respective organisations. Christian Karembeu, the former French international, has agreed to act as ambassador for the Captains of Change programme.

The process for the first edition is already under way. Applications have been received from a number of UEFA's 54 member associations and partner bodies working with minorities in football. The selection of the final participants

has also been done, based on these applicants submitting a draft diversity project showing how they intend to nourish diversity within their organisation's culture. Each individual selected will come to develop and implement their respective diversity project. Over the one-year programme, these projects will be evaluated, supported and guided by the steering committee, as well as by representatives from UEFA.

Participants will develop their projects through a number of meetings, as well as a training week in January 2015. Implementation of the projects will take place during the spring. Completion and celebration of the inaugural projects will then follow. During the project process, consultation will happen between the participant, their line manager/CEO or general secretary and UEFA representatives.

Gianni Infantino is confident of the programme's success. *"UEFA is giving its full support to the Captains of Change initiative,"* he says, *"because we believe that it can create a fresh impetus in the environment of football management."* ●

Captains of Change ambassador Christian Karembeu



Getty Images

SUPPORTING ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

To celebrate its 60th birthday, UEFA has launched a special edition of its Research Grant Programme in order to provide even greater benefit to its member associations by supporting research projects developed for and with them. By encouraging cooperation between the national associations and the academic community, UEFA hopes to help get research projects off the ground that the associations can then use to develop their own activities and projects.

Over recent years, UEFA has developed many ties with the academic community, resulting in research activities that regularly produce findings that help the European football family in particular to take decisions based on detailed analysis. *“The UEFA Research Grant Programme is an excellent opportunity to encourage the work of both prominent and aspiring researchers, who carry out studies on European football,”* says UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino.

Cooperation with the national associations

For this special edition, UEFA will award six grants for a nine-month research period in order to support research projects devoted to its national associations. UEFA will not announce any priority topics, the idea being to give its member associations free rein to decide which projects they would like to see carried out.

Consequently, applicants will have to send UEFA a letter of recommendation written by a representative of a national association supporting the proposed research. Research projects that draw comparisons between more than one

national association are also encouraged (in such cases, a letter of recommendation from at least one association participating in the project will be required).

Eligibility

All programme applicants must:

- have obtained a doctorate and currently hold a research position at a university or equivalent institution; or
- be enrolled as a doctoral student at a university or equivalent institution and currently be preparing a doctoral thesis;
- obtain a letter of recommendation from a UEFA member association.

The application and final report must be written in one of UEFA's three official languages (English, French or German).

Presentation to the jury

Applications that meet the requirements of the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations will be examined by the UEFA Research Grant Jury. This jury comprises a chairman, five representatives of the European football family and five academics known internationally for their work linked to sport and European football. The jury will award six grants in total, for projects involving six different national associations, and will decide on the exact level of funding on a case-by-case basis (maximum €15,000 per grant).

Applicants will be informed of the jury's decision by 30 June 2015 at the latest. Final reports will need to be submitted to UEFA by 31 March 2016. They will then be presented at the headquarters of UEFA and/or the national association supporting the project.

UEFA launched its Research Grant Programme six years ago and remains committed to supporting the work of researchers studying for or already holding a doctorate and analysing European football.

A list of all research projects awarded grants and all application documents can be found on UEFA.org (Football development/Academic). Summaries of the different research projects will be published in UEFA•direct. •

Members of the UEFA
Research Grant Jury



GREEN LIGHT FOR UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FORMAT

The UEFA Nations League format and schedule, the Women's EURO 2017 hosts and the situation in Crimea were on the agenda of the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Nyon on 4 December. The committee's latest UEFA Nations League decisions bring further shape to this eagerly awaited competition.

The first UEFA Nations League will be played from September to November 2018, and the EURO 2020 European Qualifiers from March to November 2019. Play-offs will then be played in March 2020 to complete the line-up for EURO 2020. All matches will be played under the Week of Football concept.

The UEFA Nations League will comprise four leagues, each divided into four groups of three or four teams. The teams from all 54 UEFA member associations will be split into the four leagues according to their strength, with the top-ranked teams in League A and the lowest-ranked in League D. For the first edition, teams will be classified according to the UEFA national team coefficient rankings at the end of the 2018 World Cup qualifiers in November 2017. Within each league, the group winners will be promoted (or enter in the 'Final Four'), while the teams at the foot of each group are relegated for the next competition in 2020. The overall UEFA Nations League rankings will determine the composition of the draw pots for the subsequent European Qualifiers.

The Final Four tournament will see the four UEFA Nations League A group winners play semi-finals and a final in June 2019 to vie to become UEFA Nations League champions.

Linking the UEFA Nations League with the UEFA EURO, the Executive Committee decided that the winners and runners-up in each of the ten European Qualifier groups will qualify automatically for EURO 2020 (in June 2020). The four remaining EURO 2020 places will go to the winners of UEFA Nations League play-off matches in March 2020. Based on the UEFA Nations League results, 16 teams will go into the play-offs, where they will be grouped four by four. The EURO 2020 qualifying draw will be made in November or December 2018, with the draw conditions stipulating that the four teams who have qualified for the Final Four must be drawn into groups of five teams (to ensure that the Final Four teams have a rest day from European Qualifiers when the Final Four tournament takes place in June 2019).

For the play-offs, the four group winners in each league qualify (16 teams). If any group winners have already qualified for EURO 2020 through the European Qualifiers, the next team down in the respective league qualifies for the play-offs. Play-off slots drop down to a lower league if fewer than four teams remain available for a play-off place in the league above. The



play-offs will consist of semi-final play-offs and a final play-off.

UEFA Women's EURO 2017

In other decisions, the Executive Committee appointed the Netherlands to host Women's EURO 2017 at seven venues – Breda, Deventer, Doetinchem, Enschede, Rotterdam (Het Kasteel), Tilburg and Utrecht – in July/August 2017. A record 46 teams will seek qualification in the inaugural 16-team final round. The Executive Committee also decided that female players who have played 100 national-team matches should receive a commemorative cap and medal for their achievement.

With regard to the situation in Crimea, the committee decided to prohibit Crimean clubs from playing in competitions organised by the Russian Football Union (RFS) from 1 January 2015 and for the region to be considered as a 'special zone' for football purposes until further notice. Also, the RFS may not organise any football competition in Crimea without the consent of UEFA and the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU). Meanwhile, UEFA will fund football development in Crimea, especially youth football and infrastructure initiatives, ensuring that football can be played and developed in that region.

Other decisions included approval of the 2015 UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations and 2015–17 European Under-21 Championship Regulations, ratification of the annual financial statements for the 2013/14 season, and approval of the 2015 UEFA Coaching Convention. ●

EXCITING MATCHES IN PROSPECT

The House of European Football in Nyon was the venue on 19 November for the draws for three women's competitions.



The European Women's Under-17 Championship kicked things off, with the draw for the 2015/16 qualifying round followed by the 2014/15 elite round draw.

The 2015/16 season will see a record 47 participants, including Andorra, a newcomer to the competition. Germany and France were given a bye in the qualifying round and will enter the fray in the elite round. The eight-team final tournament will be played in Belarus, whose team qualifies automatically, in May 2016. The 44 qualifying round participants were split into 11 groups. The top two in each group will qualify for the elite round. The results of the draw can be found on UEFA.com.

The draw for the current season's elite round produced the following groups:

- Group 1: Finland, Switzerland, **Turkey**, Serbia
- Group 2: England, Netherlands, **Republic of Ireland**, Hungary
- Group 3: Germany, **Italy**, Belarus, Czech Republic
- Group 4: Spain, Belgium, **Russia**, Romania
- Group 5: Denmark, **Austria**, Sweden, Norway
- Group 6: France, Scotland, **Poland**, Slovakia
(Mini-tournament hosts in bold)

The six group winners and the best runner-up will join hosts Iceland in the final tournament from 22 June to 4 July 2015.

Under-19s off to Slovakia in 2016



The 2015/16 European Women's Under-19 Championship final round will be staged in Slovakia, whose team qualifies automatically as host nation. England and Spain have a bye to the elite round. The other 44 teams will contest 11 qualifying round groups, with the top two in each group progressing to the elite round. The results of the draw are available on UEFA.com.

In the draw for the 2014/15 elite round, the 24 teams that have qualified were allocated to the following groups:

- Group 1: Spain, Finland, **Portugal**, Turkey
- Group 2: Sweden, Italy, Austria, **Serbia**
- Group 3: **France**, Russia, Iceland, Romania
- Group 4: England, Switzerland, Norway, **Northern Ireland**
- Group 5: **Germany**, Belgium, Scotland, Ukraine
- Group 6: **Netherlands**, Denmark, Czech Republic, Slovenia
(Mini-tournament hosts in bold)

The elite round matches will take place from 4 to 9 April 2015 and the six group winners and best runner-up will join Israel in the final round from 15 to 27 July 2015.

FAIR PLAY TROPHIES

On the occasion of the women's youth competition draws, the UEFA President, Michel Platini, presented the 2013/14 fair play trophies to Julie Marichaud, representing the French Under-17 team, and



Marta Turmo (left) and Julie Marichaud

Marta Turmo, member of the Spanish Under-19 team. The two young players also helped conduct the draws that day. ●

Final in Berlin on 14 May



The eight teams still involved in the UEFA Women's Champions League now know their next opponents following the quarter- and semi-final draws. The quarter-finals will be held on 21/22 and 28/29 March 2015 as follows:

1. FFC Frankfurt v Bristol Academy WFC
VfL Wolfsburg v FC Rosengård
Glasgow City FC v Paris Saint-Germain
Linköpings FC v Brøndby IF

The semi-finals will pitch the winners of the VfL Wolfsburg v FC Rosengård match against either Glasgow City FC or Paris Saint-Germain, while 1. FFC Frankfurt or Bristol Academy WFC will face the winners of the encounter between Linköpings FC and Brøndby IF. These matches will be played on 18/19 and 25/26 April.

The final will be staged at the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark in Berlin on 14 May 2015. Only two former winners are still in the running: 1. FFC Frankfurt and title holders VfL Wolfsburg of Germany, who are aiming to win the competition for the third season in a row. ●

EUROPEAN LINE-UP COMPLETE

The Netherlands claimed the final European place in the forthcoming FIFA Women's World Cup, to be played in Canada from 6 June to 5 July 2015, following their play-off final victory over Italy. Italy had reached the play-off final by beating Ukraine in the play-off semi-finals, while the Dutch had eliminated Scotland. England, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland are the other European representatives in the competition. ●

U21 FINAL ROUND DRAW RESULTS



On 6 November in Prague, the eight teams that have qualified for next summer's final round of the current European Under-21 Championship were drawn into two groups. In Group A are hosts the Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark and Serbia, leaving England, Italy, Portugal and Sweden in Group B. The tournament takes place from 17 to 30 June in Prague, Olomouc and Uherske Hradiste. ●

The coaches of the eight teams in the final round

FUTSAL CUP FINALISTS KNOWN

The elite round of the UEFA Futsal Cup has produced the four semi-finalists who will contest the European crown in April 2015. Current holders FC Barcelona, who also won the title in 2012, will be hoping to lift the trophy for the third time. The 2013 winners, Kairat Almaty of Kazakhstan, will also be keen to repeat their previous exploits. Sporting Clube de Portugal will be determined to go one step further than in 2011, when they lost to Italian side Città di Montesilvano in the final. The fourth semi-finalists, ISK Dina Moskva of Russia, are newcomers to this stage of the competition. They will be intent on emulating the success of their compatriots, MFK Dinamo and MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg, winners in 2007 and 2008 respectively. ●

UEFA REGIONS' CUP FINAL ROUND

The eight participants in the final round of the 2014/15 UEFA Regions' Cup were determined at the end of October. They are Zagreb (Croatia, winners of Group 1), Württemberg (Germany, Group 2), South Moravia (Czech Republic, Group 3), Eastern Region IRL (Group 4), Eastern Region NIR (Group 5), Ankara (Turkey, Group 6), Tuzla (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Group 7), and Dolnośląski (Poland, Group 8). Of the eight finalists, the Polish club is the only previous winner of the UEFA Regions' Cup, having beaten Bulgaria's South-East Region after extra time in the 2007 final.

The final round will be staged in the country of one of the finalists in summer 2015. ●

A STATUE IN REMEMBRANCE

UEFA recently commemorated the 100th anniversary of the football match that brought a truce during the first world war, when enemy combatants stopped fighting and played football.

Highlighting the unity that can be achieved through football, a statue was unveiled close to the site of the match in Comines-Warneton, close to Ypres in Belgium, on 11 December. London-based creative agency Designwerk and sculpture manufacturing specialists MDM were commissioned to produce the special memorial and the ceremony was attended by the UEFA President. Michel Platini also leads the narration on a UEFA video to remember the event, with famous footballers past and present joining him to tell the story of the match played at Christmas in 1914. Didier Deschamps, Paul Breitner, Sir Bobby Charlton, Philipp Lahm, Hugo Lloris, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Gareth Bale and Wayne Rooney all feature in the video, which has been shared with broadcasters. The moving recollection can also be seen on www.UEFA.org. ●



UEFA's unveiling of the monument to the first world war truce in Comines-Warneton, Belgium. From left to right: Rudy Demotte (Minister-President of the French Community of Belgium), Gilbert Deleu (Mayor of Comines-Warneton), UEFA President Michel Platini and René Collin (Minister for Tourism and Sport)

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The legacies of two UEFA Monaco Charity Awards came together on 10 November when the Cruyff Foundation opened its latest Cruyff Court in Como, Italy. This was the second of six Cruyff Courts to be funded using UEFA's 2013 award, and it was named after the late Stefano Borgonovo, whose own foundation working on raising awareness and developing treatment for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) received the award from UEFA President Michel Platini the previous year.

This was the first Cruyff Court to be built in Italy, with the twin aims of facilitating football for the community and raising awareness of the work of both foundations. Borgonovo, a former AC Milan and ACF Fiorentina player, was a huge fan of Johan Cruyff, with his old school still playing in orange in homage to the great Netherlands teams of the 1970s and an entire chapter of his autobiography devoted to the Dutchman. Borgonovo died in June 2013 after an eight-year battle with ALS.

A powerful alliance

"When we started my foundation, I said: 'Alone, you can't do anything; together, you can do anything,'" said Cruyff, talking about the teamwork between the two foundations. "I come from a background of team performance, because I'm not an individual player. We've always been a team, and as a team you win, you lose and you learn. And that's probably the most important thing for children: if you play together, you can learn a lot from the person next to you.

This is huge because it has a big name behind it. Borgonovo is a big name. It's a name that creates a lot of emotion, so this is a good way to tell people what happened and, at the same time, give children the opportunity to enjoy themselves."

A Cruyff Court is a modern interpretation of the traditional playing field, giving children a safe environment in which to play sport outdoors. There are around 190 Cruyff Courts in 20 different countries around the world. They are intended as a meeting place with the social function of bringing children together through activities on the courts. FC Barcelona's Xavi Hernández joined Cruyff to open the first court funded by the Monaco Charity Award, in the Spanish town of Terrassa, in October.

"It will certainly have a positive impact," said Stefano's wife, Chantal, at the opening. "We know that because this pitch has been opened in a particular borough of the city, and the schools in that borough have already asked to use it for their kids' sports lessons. So, it's a project which has been already taken up very well by the community here."

Scientific developments

When it makes its donation, UEFA asks for a four-year plan so it can see what the funding from the Monaco Charity Award will be used for. At the halfway point, there have already been tangible developments in Italy in search of a therapy that involves transplanting brain and stem cells – the first such project in Europe.

"Phase one has already been completed, and the scientists are very pleased," Chantal Borgonovo explained. "These are very long-term experiments and long-term projects, so it doesn't make sense to expect immediate results. It is a complicated, long and very expensive job, and I have to underline here that this project needs support. Phase two is now about to start, and soon we will present a new project of ours, which is about football and ALS.

"For us, the next step is about continuing with this project on stem cells and then initiating a new scientific project. We also want to open up more Cruyff Courts in Italy, and you never know what will happen tomorrow. In two or three months' time we could be opening up new paths and embarking on new projects which, at the moment, we don't have planned." ●



From left to right:
Mario Lucini (Mayor
of Como), Chantal
Borgonovo and
Johan Cruyff

Foundation Borgonovo

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



Official debut of the Andorran women's national team

The Andorran Football Federation announced at a media conference on 20 November that the women's national team dream had come true. Their official international debut is scheduled for April, in a preliminary round mini-tournament for the Women's EURO 2017. The media conference was held at the headquarters of the Andorran FA with women's football coordinator Julio Ferreros, head coach Joan Carles Ruiz and Albanian international Alba Lopez. All expressed pride and satisfaction on this historic day for the women's senior team.

Of course, women's football development was one of the aims of the president of the Andorran FA, Victor Santos, when he took office in October 2013. At the time he said: "I also hope we can develop women's football, and build a solid national team as well as a

domestic championship." This latest achievement shows that he has successfully achieved his objective.

The team played their first international matches in a UEFA women's development tournament hosted by Gibraltar in July, when they played sides from Gibraltar, Luxembourg and the Algarve. Now the next step has been confirmed.

"We have a squad of about 30 players. A high percentage of them also play for the ENFAF [national academy] senior team. The fact that they have been promoted to the Catalan first division will help us to rise to this new challenge in April. They are a group of players



Andorra v Luxembourg in Gibraltar

who have trained and played together every week for a long time now," Ruiz said. "Our goal, without knowing our opponents yet, is to reach a certain standard and be as competitive as we can for this first official competition."

● Silvia Casals



Elite youth development programme launched

Armenia is one of three countries in which the UEFA Elite Youth Player Development Programme has been launched. As part of this programme, which is also being piloted in Georgia and FYR Macedonia, the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) initiated a talent detection process at the national technical centre and academy on 8 August. A two-day mini-tournament was organised for 150 children born in 2000 and 2001, involving FC Banants, FC Pyunik, FC Mika and FC Ararat. The young players were watched by a team of FFA instructors led by Armenian national team head coach Bernard Challandes. As a result, 40 children (20 from each age group) were selected for the



The training programme for talented young Armenian players is already under way

Armenian U15 and U14 national teams. This officially kicked off the UEFA Elite Youth Player Development Programme in Armenia. All 40 players selected to take part will live, eat and train at the academy at the FFA's technical centre.

The head coach for the U15s is Marc Lelièvre of Belgium, while Frenchman Daniel Bréard is in charge of the U14s. UEFA's head of football development, Jean-Francois Domergue, was also in Armenia for the player selection stage. "I'm very pleased to be here," he said. "This is my second visit to Armenia. The first was in September. Now, eight weeks later, I've come back to see what's changed, and I see a lot of progress. As the UEFA representative for this programme, I can say that I'm satisfied with the work the FFA and coaches have done in this time."

● Tigran Israelyan



Red card for homophobia!

The 'Fair.Play. Viele Farben. Ein Spiel' (Fair Play. Many Colours. One Game) initiative, the Austrian Football Association and the Austrian Football League have combined forces for the first time to tackle the issue of homophobia in football by publishing a brochure entitled Fußball für Vielfalt (Football for Diversity). Homophobic chanting on the terraces, talk of 'gay passes' and the invisibility of lesbians and gay men in football demonstrate that homophobia is a common form of discrimination in the sport. The problem of discrimination is often unrecognised and a taboo subject. The Football for Diversity brochure aims to raise awareness of the problem of homophobia and to educate people about discrimination.

As well as focussing on education and awareness-raising, the brochure sets out some practical steps that fans, players, coaches, clubs and associations can take to combat discrimination against gay, lesbian and transgender

people. Football can play an important social role in bringing together people from different backgrounds, classes, religions, sexual orientations and genders. Together, the Fair Play initiative, the Austrian FA and the league want to highlight football's duty to set an example and its social responsibility in this area. The publication includes contributions from well-known Austrian football personalities such as national team players Christian Fuchs (FC Schalke 04) and Markus Suttner (FK Austria Wien), the women's national team captain, Viktoria Schnaderbeck (FC Bayern München), FIFA referee Harald Lechner and Bundesliga coach Damir Canadi (SCR Altach).



From left to right: Christian Ebenbauer (chairman of the Austrian Bundesliga), Nikola Staritz (representing Fair.Play. Viele Farben. Ein Spiel.), and Leo Windtner (president of the Austrian FA)

The message from the Fair Play initiative, the Austrian FA and the league is clear: together, let's show homophobia the red card!

● Carmen Redl



Pantomime and football

What do two such totally different types of entertainment have in common, you may ask. Despite the differences, on 9 November – a week before the Azerbaijan v Norway European Qualifier, the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) organised flash mobs at three crowded venues in Baku with the participation of actors from the national pantomime theatre. Azerbaijan's undesirable start to the European Qualifiers, with three defeats in a row, had caused significant despondency among the fans of the national team. Most spectators had not



Flash mobs show supporters how it's done

expected such serious losses by their favourite team.

Therefore, with the help of the pantomime theatre, the AFFA decided to demonstrate how much the fans' support is needed and how it encourages the players during a match. The

actors, with the chants of spectators in their ears, showed motivation, initiative and dynamic play when the cheers from the spectators rose, while discouragement, low spirits and passive play were the result when the fans' support diminished.

In order to reach more people and to encourage them to support the senior national team, a video of the flash mobs was distributed on 11 November to media agencies through various media channels, in particular through the AFFA's Facebook (www.facebook.com/affaazerbaijan) and Youtube (www.youtube.com/affaofficial) pages, which were launched on 19 August. ● Kamran Babashov



Rocky start on the road to France

The national team of Bosnia and Herzegovina have had a tough start to qualifying for EURO 2016 in France. After four rounds (two home games and two away) they have earned only two points. The Dragons were expected to take the leading role in Group B after their performance at the World Cup in Brazil. Instead, they were beaten by Cyprus in Zenica (2-1), they drew away to Wales (0-0) and then again at home in Bilino Polje against Belgium (1-1), and on 16 November they lost against Israel in Haifa (3-0).

Bosnia and Herzegovina's chances of qualifying directly, or even through the play-offs, are now significantly reduced. That is why, the day after the match against Israel, the executive board of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) terminated the contract of head coach Safet Sušić, who had led the team since 2009. Sušić first took the Dragons to the play-offs for EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, where they were eliminated by Portugal. Then came their greatest achievement, when they qualified for the 2014 World Cup. In the space of almost five years at the helm, Sušić led the Dragons to 49 matches and achieved 23 wins, 9 draws and 17 defeats. Bosnia and Herzegovina's next qualifier is in Andorra on 28 March.

The national woman's team, meanwhile, recently played a friendly match in Stara Pazova, where they lost 1-0 to their hosts, Serbia.

On the domestic scene, the first half of the championship season was completed, with NK Široki Brijeg top of the table after 15 rounds. They finished on 34 points, which is two more than FK Sarajevo and three more than the reigning champions, HŠK Zrinjski. FK Željezničar go into the winter break on 30 points. The second part of the season begins on 28 February, when the title race will really hot up.

The cup competition will also continue in the spring, with the following teams qualified for the quarter-finals in March: FK Borac Banja Luka, FK Sarajevo, FK Mladost Velika Obarska, NK Široki Brijeg, NK Zvijezda Gradačac, FK Olimpik Sarajevo, HŠK Zrinjski and FK Velež Mostar.

Finally, off the field, the committee responsible for monitoring and analysing domestic competitions met to discuss the current format of the premier league. It decided that the number of teams involved was not optimal and that steps should be taken to reduce the field from 16 to 12. Talks will continue and involve the different entity associations to determine how exactly this can be achieved.

● Fuad Kravac



A new chapter in Danish football

The Danish Football Association (DBU) launched a new chapter in Danish football towards the end of 2014. The mission is clear: we expect ourselves to be the best possible hosts for the football community, and we want to take responsibility for creating a community that encompasses all ages, backgrounds and cultures, and where there is room for ambition and emotion.



Volunteers make a difference

When a national team player puts on their red and white kit, they must understand that they represent much more than just the number on their back. And when Danish volunteers dedicate their spare time to future generations of football players, we must make it clear to them that they are making a difference to society. That is the story the DBU wants to tell.

"Our purpose is to help, support and show appreciation for the diverse communities, local clubs and countless volunteers who contribute to the positive evolution of the football culture in Denmark. Our purpose is also to help the players on the Danish national teams to live up to the expectations of their country and to provide younger generations with the best possible environment for development. And finally our purpose is to make sure that being a fan is fun, which means rewarding loyalty and supporting efforts to make this sport special. That requires humility and empathy," says Claus Bretton-Meyer, chief executive of the DBU.

This new chapter in Danish football is branded 'Part of something bigger'.

● Maria Bach Jensen



Bosnia and Herzegovina in their European Qualifier against Israel

F. Kravac

Estonian season ends with a thriller

As most of the big leagues are running at pace, the Estonian Football Association (EJL) has wrapped up its season with a ceremonial gala at the national opera house.

The Estonian top division had the most fascinating end to its season. Although the main title favourites before the season were from Tallinn, none of them played their final game at home. Two played their last matches away in eastern Estonia, with less than 30 kilometres between the two stadiums. Favourites FC Levadia made no mistake against Narva Trans and won the championship. FC Flora lost to Sillamäe Kalev and not only lost the title but dropped to third place as Sillamäe rose above them. Nõmme Kalju, who were hoping for an FC Flora win so they could finish in bronze medal position, won their away game against Tartu Tammeka, but had to settle for fourth place.

Tallinna Kalev and Jõhvi Lokomotiv saw their teams relegated, while two teams from the south-western part of Estonia will join the top division next season. The best player in the top



Unbeaten champions Pärnu JK also won their fair share of awards this season

division was Evgeny Kabaev (Sillamäe Kalev) from Russia, who was the league's top scorer with 36 goals. Estonia's footballer of the year award was also announced at the gala. Ragnar Klavan, who won the accolade, sent a video message from Germany as he prepared to play for Augsburg in the Bundesliga a few minutes after the results were announced. The best female player in the country was midfielder Kethy Õunpuu, who captains both the national team and FC Flora.

Head coach of women's team Pärnu JK, Jüri Saar, won the best coach award, which is named after the legendary Albert Vollrat. The best youth player was Karol Mets from FC Flora.

The 21-year-old regularly plays centre-back at his home club although national team coach Magnus Pehrsson sees him more as a midfielder. Mets has played in all 13 national team matches this season so far and has really impressed. The best female youth player was 17-year-old defender from Pärnu JK, Ketlin Saar. The youngster also made her senior international debut this season.

Pärnu JK won all their games this season in the women's league and won the championship comfortably. The best player was Kairi Himanen and top goalscorer Anastassia Morkovkina, both from Estonia's summer capital Pärnu.

● Media office

Nordic grassroots conference in Tórshavn

At the beginning of November representatives from all the Nordic football associations came together in the Faroese capital of Tórshavn for a conference to discuss the progress and future of grassroots football in their part of the world. The new UEFA Grassroots Charter was one of the topics on the agenda, and the overall opinion of the participants was that the Nordic countries are very much up to date as far as grassroots work is concerned.

Another subject that was widely discussed was that of football fitness, which is a concept that the Danish FA has worked on some years, and which both the Swedish and Faroese associations are preparing to launch in their respective countries.

Football fitness consists of organised football training sessions for people of all ages, male and female, who might not have been active footballers previously. During the conference in Tórshavn, Dr Magni Mohr, a leading Faroese scientist who has worked with major clubs such

as Juventus and Chelsea, presented his research with a group of women in the Faroe Islands who have been taking part in football fitness on an experimental basis for some time. The research shows that playing football is one of the most efficient ways of exercising.

Another topic discussed was the education of people working for clubs as coaches or in administration. Education varies from country to country in the Nordic region but, overall, many clubs suffer from a lack of professionalism, especially in their administration. The conference was attended by 18 participants representing the Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Icelandic and Faroese football associations.

● Terji Nielsen



The grassroots conference participants

Bidding to host 2019 Women's World Cup

On 30 October in Zurich, Noël Le Graët, president of the French Football Federation (FFF), handed the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, France's bid to host the Women's World Cup in 2019. That same evening, the FFF president, together with minister of urban affairs, youth and sport Patrick Kanner, FFF general secretary Brigitte Henriques, French women's national team coach Philippe Bergeroo and celebrated national team players Gaétane Thiney and Laura Georges, presented the bid to the media.

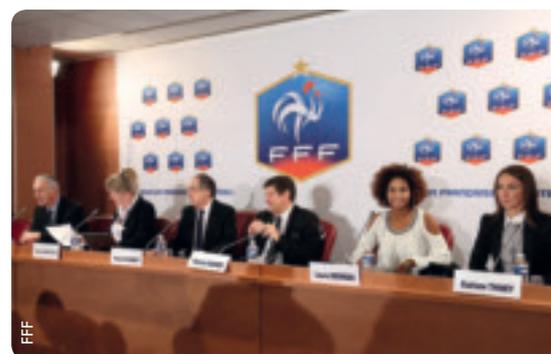
In brief, the bid proposes 11 host cities, all of whose stadiums house professional clubs (Auxerre, Grenoble, Lyon, Le Havre, Montpellier,

Nancy, Nice, Reims, Rennes, Paris and Valenciennes), plus a 58,000-seater venue for the final and an innovative concept for hosting the U-20 Women's World Cup in 2018.

After the press conference, the FFF president said: "The whole country is behind this bid. We obtained all the government and ministerial department guarantees in record time. Such willingness shows how keen the local authorities are, as well as many others, to contribute to the development of women's football throughout France."

France is in the running with South Korea to host the tournament. FIFA will take its decision in March 2015.

● Laura Goutry



The French bid team prepare to present their plans to the media



New Youtube channel and revamped website

The Gibraltar FA has recently launched two new platforms in order to be able to reach out to its ever-growing fan base both domestically and globally.



A virtual makeover

Gibraltar FATV is the association's new NATV channel, which, at present, is the only outlet to show the full raw footage of our domestic top division games in their entirety. This in itself is a major step forward as prior to the channel launching, no one provided such in-depth coverage of local top flight football. The channel also features other content from all branches of the Gibraltar FA, and there are big plans for its expansion going forward. It can be found using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-WcLKibqKABNMgvkbSMEkg/> featured

In a busy month for the Gibraltar FA on the communications front, a wholly revamped Gibraltarfa.com has also been rolled out, with further improvements to come.

● Steven Gonzalez



Pro licence course launched

The Israel Football Association's education department is in charge of all education programmes and training activities for coaches in Israel. Throughout the year, the department runs several courses for coaches at different levels, which are open to all registered coaches.

At the end of October the association launched a new Pro licence course, under the strict guidelines of UEFA and FIFA. The Israel Football Association provides the student coaches with the best possible programme involving top international instructors, including Lars Isecke, assistant coach of Germany's Under-20 and Under-21 national teams, who was on hand for the latest Pro licence session.

Lars Isecke led a great high-level professional session in front of a full house composed of leading coaches from the top two divisions. Another participant was the head coach of Israel's Under-21 national team and the technical director for all the youth teams, Michael Nees, who said: "Lars is an expert in his field and the lecture was very interesting, as I expected it would be. The cooperation between the Israel Football Association and the German Football Association always bears great fruit for everyone."

● Michal Grundland



National club licencing to fully comply with financial fair play

A significant reform package relating to Italy's flagship domestic competition, the Serie A, was approved by the board of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) at its recent meeting, which was held in Rome. The overall framework is now being established to bring the national licencing system into full compliance with the requirements of financial fair play, starting in 2015/16, with the aim of ensuring the economic well-being and financial sustainability of the clubs and encouraging investment in home-grown and locally trained players.

New regulations allow a maximum of two new players from outside the EU, the first of whom must replace another non-EU player, while the second must have a CV that proves he has been capped at least twice by his national team. At the same time, a minimum of four locally trained and four association-trained players must be included on each 25-player team sheet, meaning players aged 15 to 21 who have been registered with a Serie A club for at least 36 months, regardless of nationality.

This decision is significant and demonstrates the Italian FA's vision and pragmatism. Discussions about domestic competition reforms will continue over the months ahead, looking specifically at reducing the number of teams in professional



Carolina Morace, the first woman to enter Italian football's hall of fame

championships and reorganising the whole schools and grassroots branch. The board also announced that it has reached a deal to renew the contract of women's national team coach Antonio Cabrini, whose role has been extended to technical coordinator for women's and youth teams.

Women's football achieved another significant boost when the 'hall of fame' of Italian football recently introduced a women's category, which this year pays tribute to former national team head coach and ex-international (150 caps between 1978 and 1997) Carolina Morace. She enters the hall of fame alongside Fabio Cannavaro (Italian player), Diego Armando Maradona (foreign player), Carlo Ancelotti (Italian coach), Stefano Braschi (Italian referee), Sandro Mazzola (veteran), Giuseppe Marotta (director), Giacomo Bulgarelli, Ferruccio Novo and Carlo Carcano (in remembrance). The awards ceremony will be held in Florence in January.

● Diego Antenzio



First ever UEFA Pro licences awarded

At a special ceremony on 20 October, 14 coaches received their diplomas and licences after successfully completing Latvia's first ever UEFA Pro diploma course. Holders of the UEFA Pro licence, the highest coaching qualification in Europe, can work as head coach of any Latvian higher league club, while according to the UEFA Coaching Convention also having the opportunity to work in other European countries.

"Obtaining a UEFA Pro licence is an ambitious and important step in the career of every professional coach. To receive such a licence in the past our coaches had to go abroad, but now, after concerted efforts and close cooperation with UEFA, this option can be offered by the Latvian Football Federation itself, thereby completing the coach education pyramid in Latvia. My sincere congratulations to all the UEFA Pro coaches: I wish you the best of luck in your future careers," said Jānis Mežeckis, general secretary of the Latvian Football Federation (LFF).



Latvia's first UEFA Pro coaches, who received their diplomas and licences at a ceremony in Riga

Two members of the UEFA Jira Panel – Piotr Maranda, who is also head of coach education at the Polish Football Federation, and Dušan Fitzel, technical director of the Football Association of the Czech Republic – acted as instructors on the inaugural course. At the award ceremony Piotr Maranda congratulated the new members of UEFA Pro licence family and encouraged them to continue their professional development. At the end of the course honorary UEFA Pro diplomas were presented to the head of the Latvian football coaches association (LFTA), Jānis Skredelis, and experienced former coach Georgijs Gusarenko – both domestic coach education instructors. LFF coaching committee chairman Aleksandrs Starkovs also worked as an instructor on the inaugural course and provided some valuable advice.

The following coaches received UEFA Pro licences: Jurijs Popkovs, Viktors Ņesterenko, Mihails Koņevs, Jānis Intenbergs, Dainis Kazakevičs, Vladimirs Pačko, Marians Pahars, Jūrgis Pučinskis, Vladimirs Babičevs, Vitālijs Astafjevs, Sergejs Pogodins, Alexey Yagudin, Andrejs Štolcers and Andris Riherts. Course director Jurijs Andrejevs announced that applications for a second Latvian Pro diploma course would be taken in 2015.

● Viktors Sopirins

Peter Jehle named footballer of the year

National team goalkeeper Peter Jehle has been elected Liechtenstein's footballer of the year for the first time in his career. Capped 108 times for his country, he won the award thanks to his strong performances for the national team and his club, FC Vaduz.

The Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) presented the annual awards for the footballer, young footballer and coach of the year at a ceremony on 11 November. After being nominated for an award for the sixth time, Peter Jehle finally won the coveted title for the first time. *"It's wonderful to be able to accept an award like this. It's recognition for all the work I've done,"* said the delighted 32-year old goalkeeper of FC Vaduz, who were recently promoted to the Swiss Super League. Peter Jehle won the vote despite being sidelined since mid-October, when he suffered a bicep tear in Liechtenstein's 0-0 draw against Montenegro.



Peter Jehle and his wife

The young footballer award was won by Dennis Salanović, a member of the youth academy at Spanish UEFA Champions League finalists Club Atlético de Madrid. Aged only 18, he broke into the Liechtenstein senior national team in 2014 and has already established himself at that level. Finally, specialist juries and fans voted FC Vaduz's promotion-winning Giorgio Contini coach of the year. Since making it to the top division in Switzerland in the summer, he and his team have picked up points on a regular basis. Giorgio Contini received his award from the former Swiss national team coach Jakob 'Köbi' Kuhn.

A few weeks ago, we were saddened to hear that former professional footballer Rainer Hasler (born on 2 July 1958) had died from cancer at the age of 56 on 29 October. The LFV is mourning a huge football personality who, although he never played for the senior national team, was named by the LFV as Liechtenstein's Golden Player of the past 50 years in 2004.

Rainer Hasler retired from football in 1989, aged 31, after a playing career that had begun at Grasshopper Club (1976-78) and FC Vaduz (1978-79). He did not participate in any of the friendly matches played by the Liechtenstein national team during his career. Liechtenstein did not begin participating in international competitions until 1994, after he had retired.

● Anton Banzer

Supporting wellness initiatives

Problems afflicting today's society are the concern of several organisations in many countries. In Malta, the island's football association is showing the way in terms of social solidarity and wellness in all spheres of life. The association believes that the game can be a formidable medium in terms of making life easier for people on the periphery of society through disability, medical conditions or other circumstances.

'Inspire' is a support group in Malta which is doing great work in this respect and the Malta FA is very pleased to be working with this organisation and helping to make the world a better place to live. Recently, a group of Maltese national team players met some of the children from Inspire to encourage and support them.

Such sentiments were also evident when 11 Inspire mascots filed onto the pitch with the Maltese players prior to Malta's European Qualifier against Italy at Ta'Qali National Stadium. The chief executive of Inspire said his

organisation was very happy to be part of this experience and hoped that cooperation with the Malta Football Association would continue. He expressed his appreciation to the players and the association for this initiative, recognising the value of football as a vehicle for supporting wellness initiatives and making a difference for the better.

● Alex Vella



Children from the support group Inspire line up with the Malta players ahead of their match against Italy

New futsal arena opens

A new sports complex, the FMF futsal arena, located in the suburbs of Chisinau, in the village of Ciorescu, and built to FIFA and UEFA standards, was officially inaugurated on 15 November. This magnificent project is the joint fruit of solidarity payments originating from two successive phases of the UEFA HatTrick programme and the dedication and application to the task exhibited by the Football Association of Moldova (FMF). The symbolic ribbon was cut by UEFA vice-president Marios N. Lefkaritis, Moldovan prime minister Iurie Leancă, FMF president Pavel Cebanu and Ciorescu village mayor Ion Scripciu. The opening ceremony was attended by the president of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti, former presidents Mircea Snegur and Petru Lucinschi, members of parliament, the presidents of different sports federations and other officials.

"One of the main priorities of the FMF is to develop football infrastructure in Moldova," said Pavel Cebanu. *"In 2012 the FMF executive committee decided to launch an important project to build a multifunctional sports complex, the FMF futsal arena. To our great satisfaction we received positive feedback and great support from UEFA, which funded this project through its HatTrick programme. In implementing the project we were constantly guided, assisted, advised and encouraged by UEFA experts, which helped us to bring it to a successful conclusion. We also had the full support of FIFA, as well as commitment and cooperation from the local authorities."*

In his message for the special issue of the FMF magazine published for this event, the UEFA President, Michel Platini, said: *"The FMF futsal arena will foster the development of futsal in Moldova, giving a powerful thrust to the development of the sport in the country and providing appropriate infrastructure for the domestic championship, the Moldovan Cup and Super Cup, and other national and international club and national team competitions. I wish to*

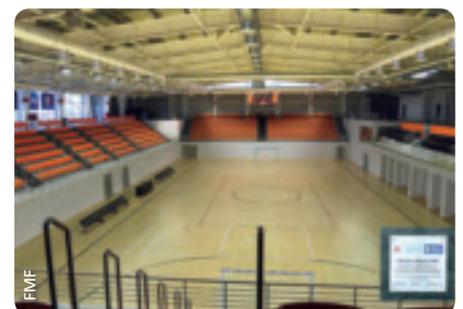
express my most sincere congratulations to the FMF and my best wishes for the successful development of Moldovan futsal!"

Iurie Leancă said: *"I hope that both national and European competitions will soon be organised in Ciorescu. It is very important for the FMF futsal arena to be a place to which not only a privileged few have access."*

The FMF futsal arena sports complex covers a total surface area of 4694.5 square metres and includes a multifunctional field measuring 47 m x 26 m, floodlights, stands (1,302 seats), a press box, two electronic scoreboards, a sound system, four equipped team dressing rooms (including two for disabled people), dressing rooms for officials (referees, referee observer, delegate), a video control system, first aid room, catering, conference room, free Wi-Fi and a permanently supervised parking area.

The first match in the new sports complex was played on 22 November, when the futsal Super Cup brought together the teams from Progres and Tarsus. UEFA has already entrusted the FMF with the organisation and staging of a preliminary round mini-tournament in the 2015-16 European Futsal Championship, due to take place between 13 and 18 January 2015.

● Press office



The new futsal arena

Northern Ireland
www.irishfa.com

Curriculum Sports Programme awarded

The Irish FA is pleased to announce that the Curriculum Sports Programme has been named Coaching Intervention of the Year in the 2014 UK Coaching Awards.

The judging panel gave the award to the programme, delivered by the Irish Football Association and Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in recognition of the number of schools engaged annually across the five education board areas, the vast number of children and teachers involved in the programme, the cross curriculum themes embedded in coaching sessions and the innovative approach in utilising the department of education's C2K computer system to share resources with teachers and directly impact on their training and development.

The Irish FA primary school coaches manager, Jonathan Michael, was delighted to accept the

award on behalf of the 30 Irish FA primary school coaches: "I am immensely proud of what we have achieved this year along with our counterparts in the GAA. Winning this award demonstrates the incredible positive impact the programme is having on the health and well-being of all the children involved and the knowledge that is being imparted to primary school teachers across the country. It also highlights that the programme is truly ground-breaking and world-class. All credit should go to the Irish FA primary school coaches for their continuous hard work, enthusiasm and passion. This is significant recognition and reward for their efforts over the past seven years."



From left to right: Terrence McWilliams (Ulster GAA), Michael Boyd (IFA director of football development), Chris Baillieu (chairman of sports coach UK), Jonathan Michael (IFA manager of school football coaches) and Eugene Young (Ulster GAA)

The Curriculum Sports Programme has been funded by the department of education since 2007. In that time well over 100,000 children and thousands of teachers have benefited from the programme.

● Jonathan Michael

Portugal
www.fpf.pt

Football unites at Football Talks conference

The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) has unveiled a special calendar of events to mark its 100th anniversary. From 13 to 15 January the president of the FPF, Fernando Gomes, is hosting Football Talks, a conference in Cascais that will bring together key figures from the world of international football to discuss important subjects relating to the future of professional football. UEFA President Michel Platini and UEFA's chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina, are among the big names due



to speak at the conference, which will attract national associations, clubs, managers, players, journalists, students and supporters.

On 14 January the FPF president will also host the Quinas de Ouro gala at the Casino Estoril in Cascais. The federation will use this event to bring its unique history to life, as the spotlight turns on those who, over the years, have helped to make football Portugal's number one game. Many of those people will be given awards for their outstanding contribution.

These are the main events in what will be a busy year for the FPF, which was founded on 13 March 1914.

● Matilde Dias

Republic of Ireland
www.fai.ie

Cross-community event with US embassy

Ahead of last month's friendly between the Republic of Ireland and the USA, the US Embassy in Ireland and the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) got together to facilitate a 'cross-border, cross-community' fun football event. The US ambassador to Ireland, Kevin O'Malley, joined FAI deputy CEO Sarah O'Shea and the president of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), Sunil Gulati, at a fun tournament between teams from across the island.

The event in Dublin was a real success, with the emphasis on sportsmanship, team building, leadership and friendship. It emanated out of Penn State University's UNESCO Chair conference on the importance of sport in youth development and civic engagement, which was held in Ireland's capital city in August ahead of a college football game between Penn State and the University of Central Florida.

A number of groups from both sides of the Irish border and various sectors of the community were invited to the event, which was designed to embrace the ethos of sport transcending barriers. Among those present

were: R CITY Belfast, a 'communities integrating through youth' programme run by Ardoyne Youth Club and Hammer Youth Club (Shankill) in Belfast; Breaking Barriers Limerick, an initiative that helps people from the community of Limerick remove barriers built up through crime and violence and a lack of positive

interaction with Gardai, Ireland's police force; and FAI/Gardai Late Night Leagues Coolock & Limerick, a programme that, run with the assistance of insurance group IPB, now has 52 centres operating around Ireland in a scheme that has young people playing football and engaging with their local Gardai during traditional anti-social behaviour hours.

After a Dublin 'chipper' supper and an awards ceremony to present medals kindly donated by the USSF and FAI, all participants were invited to the Ireland-USA match at Aviva Stadium as guests of the FAI.

● Stephen Finn



From left to right: Fran Gavin (FAI), Gerry Reardon (FAI), Taylor Twellman (US ex-international), Sarah O'Shea (FAI), Kevin O'Malley (US ambassador to Ireland) and representatives of the national police service

A special evening

Romania's friendly match against Denmark at the Bucharest National Arena on 18 November, which the hosts won 2-0, was no ordinary friendly. Besides the quality of the two teams on the pitch, there were some special touches by the federation that transformed the match into a social as well as sporting event.

For the first time in the history of the Romanian FA, a special area within the stadium, the 'family zone', was dedicated exclusively to children and their parents. This was seen as a necessary step to get football closer to families, and the community as a whole. In addition, more than 2,000 disadvantaged children, who would not have been able to buy tickets, were invited to the stadium to watch the match.

Another special moment was the appearance of the SMURD teams of mobile emergency resuscitation and evacuation professionals (paramedics, etc.), who were invited as a gesture of respect and thanks for their daily efforts to save lives. They all received standing ovations.

Among the children present at the stadium was 14-year-old Mitică, a young footballer from a Roma family that lives in a small town some 80km from Bucharest. He was discovered entirely by chance by a group of young volunteers. Nowadays, Mitică lives with a family in Bucharest, plays football at one of the city's football schools and follows a special school curriculum to help him make up the years he has missed at school. "This is the greatest day of my life," he told the president of the Romanian FA, Răzvan Burleanu, before the match.



The president, Răzvan Burleanu (far right) next to Mitică

"Mitică is one of too many children who don't have the chances they deserve. Football, together with warm-hearted individuals and the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, is doing everything it can to help him and other children like him to succeed in life. I am happy that we can help and I hope that he will achieve his dreams. But the most important thing is that football should help him where it matters most – at school," Burleanu said.

In light of all the cases like Mitică's, the Romanian FA has set to work with civil society partners to establish a programme to identify and support talented young footballers who slip through the cracks of the usual selection process. This project, which is due to be launched in spring 2015, is designed to give them a good school environment and the possibility of a football career. It will also promote football as a sport with the power to promote social mobility and education.

● Paul Zaharia

San Marino's national team make history

With 2014 drawing to a close, San Marino enjoyed one of the greatest moments in its footballing history. On 15 November, in a match against Estonia, the men's national team earned their first ever point in an official European Championship qualifier (0-0). Given the gulf in standards between the professional and amateur game, such encounters have traditionally been something of a chastening experience for the representatives of the tiny republic. However, in a game that saw San Marino match the Estonians for long stretches, keeping the ball well and making a number of dangerous incursions into their opponents' half, they held on to earn a draw. Inevitably, Estonia put them under pressure, but at no point did they panic or lose focus in what was a well-organised defensive display. It was just reward for the remarkable effort that the players have put in during training, under the aegis of a new coaching team and a new regimen that sees the squad training every week, in contrast to the past when they only got together in the run-up to international

fixtures. The icing on the cake has been the team's leap up the FIFA rankings. San Marino have climbed 28 places, from 208 to the relatively rarefied heights of 180. Not that this should be seen as a reason for complacency or self-congratulation. Rather, it should serve as the stimulus to continue working hard and building on what has been achieved to date, in the same spirit of humility and respect towards others.

● Matteo Rossi



San Marino celebrate holding Estonia to a historic draw

Over £1.5 million for emergency Ebola appeal

Generous Scotland supporters have helped raise over £1.5 million for Unicef's emergency Ebola appeal, which kicked off at the match against England at Celtic Park, with the UK government matching all public donations for pound.

The appeal was led by Scotland manager Gordon Strachan, midfielders Darren Fletcher and Scott Brown, and England captain Wayne Rooney. EE, the UK's largest mobile operator, also got behind the appeal by texting 12.5 million of its customers asking them to donate £5. Meanwhile, easyJet is asking passengers to donate on flights across its network.

The appeal came as the number of Ebola deaths reached 5,000 and the number of people infected across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone exceeded 14,000. One in five of these patients are children and at the time of writing around 7,000 more have lost one or both of their parents to the disease. Schools and health facilities for pregnant women are closing, and vital vaccination programmes for children are halting because of the emergency.

Unicef is working to control the disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, providing life-saving supplies to treat and protect affected children and supporting those who have lost loved ones. But the organisation urgently needs more donations to help keep every child safe.

Unicef UK executive director David Bull said: "This week the British public has really swung behind our emergency Ebola appeal. With the

money raised until 8 December being matched by the UK government, we will be able to reach many more children whose lives are in danger from Ebola. It is one of the cruellest diseases that isolates sufferers and separates children from their families, leaving them traumatised and alone."

International development secretary Justine Greening added: "The British public have yet again shown this is a nation that doesn't turn its back on suffering around the world. That is why we will match pound for pound every donation made to this appeal, making your generosity go twice as far. This support will make a real difference helping the people of West Africa fight this terrible disease."

£5 helps provide supplies for Ebola kits – such as gloves, masks, soap and chlorine – to protect children and their families from this deadly virus. 100% of all text donations will go to the charity and be spent on the Ebola appeal.

● David Childs



England and Scotland players launched an Ebola appeal ahead of their friendly match at Celtic Park



A new challenge for Peter Knäbel

After five years or so as technical director, Peter Knäbel left the Swiss Football Association at the end of September to take up a new challenge as sporting director at German Bundesliga club Hamburger SV.

The 48-year-old German joined the Swiss FA at the end of 2009 as the successor to Hansruedi Hasler, the architect of the association's successful youth policy, and made a dream start to his new job. Before he had even officially taken up the post, he and Hasler accompanied Dany Ryser's Under-17 squad to the finals of the U-17 World Cup in Nigeria, where Switzerland surprised everyone by winning the tournament.

As a player, Knäbel represented Germany at Under-16 level, then played for various clubs in the country's top two divisions. In 1998 he moved to Switzerland, where he enjoyed success as head of youth development at FC Basel.

Knäbel also played a key role in Switzerland reaching the final of the European Under-21 Championship under coach Pierluigi Tami, thereby also qualifying for London 2012 – the Swiss football team's first Olympics for 84 years.

The Swiss FA has not yet come to a decision on Knäbel's successor. The general secretary, Alex Miescher, does not want his sudden departure to force an immediate decision on what comes next. Instead, the association is considering restructuring its technical department and reshaping the current role. ● *Pierre Benoit*



Supporting ALS patients

The Turkish Football Federation (TFF) organised a press conference about its support of people with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) ahead of the Turkey v Brazil friendly played on 12 November in Istanbul.

The press conference was held at the Hasan Doğan national team camp and training facilities in Riva. It was attended by the TFF's first vice-president, Servet Yardımcı, the football director and national A team head coach, Fatih Terim, Galatasaray and Brazilian national team goalkeeper coach Claudio Taffarel, former Turkish internationals Ridvan Dilmen and Metin Tekin and former Trabzonspor player İsmail Gökçek, who himself has ALS.



The players and patients on the eve of Brazil's friendly match against Turkey

It was announced at the press conference that a dedicated TFF committee had been set up and that some important activities would be organised in support of ALS patients.

After the press conference, people with ALS watched the Brazilian national team's pre-match training session and had their photo taken with the players. Other activities were organised at the match to increase awareness of the disease.

● *Aydın Güvenir*



National grassroots seminar and school football contest

A seminar on grassroots football in Ukraine was held in Kyiv from 11 to 13 November, together with the final of a national contest to find the best football lessons in schools.

Almost 200 people attended the opening session of the seminar at the headquarters of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), including FFU president Anatoliy Konkov, head of the FFU grassroots committee and member of the executive committee Vitaliy Pylypenko, first vice-chairman of the FFU grassroots committee and member of the UEFA Grassroots Panel Eugene Stolitenko, the head of Unicef in Ukraine, Giovanna Barberis, the head of the project 'Consulting on HIV/AIDS and Support of the Institutions' run by the German agency for international cooperation (GIZ), Martin Kade, and the heads of various associations active in grassroots sport.

The seminar was aimed at the members of Ukraine's regional football federations responsible for implementing the FFU's national grassroots development programmes. It was also attended by the teachers nominated for the best football lesson in schools award.

The FFU president gave a speech and noted that such events have become an important part of grassroots football development in Ukraine: *"The FFU continues to implement programmes to improve training infrastructure, to give the necessary equipment to schools and to improve the quality of youth coaching. Our goals are to enhance the prestige of the profession, to create the right conditions for youth coaching and to support and motivate coaches."*

The contest for best football lesson in schools was decided on 12 and 13 November at the Scandinavian school in Kyiv. Fourth place went to Yuri Andrusenko, PE teacher at school No 165 in Kharkiv. Svitlana Vyshnya (who teaches at a school in the Odesa region) and Svitlana Repalo (Chernivtsi region) took joint third, while second went to Valeriy Kramarenko, who teaches at EkoNad school No 30 in Kyiv and also won first place in the most innovative lesson category. The overall winner of the competition was Valentin Zelinskiy, a PE teacher at a school in the Borodyanskiy region near Kyiv.

● *Yuri Maznychenko*



The prize winners in the best football lesson competition

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

- Davor Šuker (Croatia, 1 January)
- Ian Ayre (England, 1 January)
- Monica Ortigueira (Switzerland, 2 January)
- Gerhard Sager (Sweden, 3 January)
- George Pirtskhalava (Georgia, 3 January) 50th
- Andreas Demetriou (Cyprus, 3 January)
- Kuanysh Kanapyanov (Kazakhstan, 4 January)
- David George Collins (Wales, 5 January) 70th
- Mariano Moreno (Spain, 6 January)
- Walter Clarke (Northern Ireland, 6 January)
- Sergei Safaryan (Belarus, 6 January)
- Rudolf Marxer (Liechtenstein, 6 January)
- Jonathan Hall (England, 6 January)
- Sergiy Lysenchuk (Ukraine, 6 January)
- Andrejs Sipailo (Latvia, 7 January)
- Nelly Viennot (France, 8 January)
- Alf Hansen (Norway, 8 January)
- Bernhard Neuhold (Austria, 8 January)
- Franco Ferrari (Italy, 9 January)
- Velid Imamović (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 9 January)
- Herbert Hübel (Austria, 10 January)
- Emil Bozhinovski (FYR Macedonia, 10 January)
- Michel Dumoulin (Belgium, 11 January)
- Hans-Dieter Drewitz (Germany, 11 January)
- Olivier Brochart (France, 11 January)
- Elnur Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 11 January)
- Juan N. Garcia-Nieto Portabella (Spain, 12 January)
- Sarah O'Shea (Republic of Ireland, 12 January)
- Drago Kos (Slovenia, 13 January)
- Sofoklis Pilavios (Greece, 13 January)
- Ausra Kance (Lithuania, 13 January)
- Siarhei Ilyich (Belarus, 13 January)
- Luis Horta (Portugal, 14 January)
- Martin Iseli (Switzerland, 14 January)
- Nodar Akhalkatsi (Georgia, 14 January)
- Radu Traian Visan (Romania, 14 January)
- Alessandro Lulli (Italy, 15 January)
- Phivos Vakis (Cyprus, 15 January)
- Atanas Furnadzhiev (Bulgaria, 15 January)
- Mitja Lainscak (Slovenia, 15 January)
- Kleomenis Bontiotis (Greece, 16 January)
- Sune Hellströmer (Sweden, 17 January)
- Stephen Bennett (England, 17 January)
- Jan W. Wegereef (Netherlands, 17 January)
- Blaženka Logarušić (Croatia, 17 January)
- Faruk Basturk (Turkey, 17 January)
- Tibor Nyilasi (Hungary, 18 January) 60th
- Fabrizio Tonelli (Italy, 18 January) 60th
- Bujar Kasmi (Albania, 19 January)
- Ansgar Schwenken (Germany, 19 January)
- Artur Azaryan (Armenia, 19 January)
- Lars-Åke Lagrell (Sweden, 20 January)
- Aurel Ticleanu (Romania, 20 January)

Pedro Ángel Galán Nieto (Spain, 20 January)
 Maciej Sawicki (Poland, 20 January)
 Bjorn Vassallo (Malta, 20 January)
 Anders Mattsson (Finland, 21 January)
 Ángel María Villar Llona (Spain, 21 January)
 Maria Teresa Andreu Grau (Spain, 21 January)
 François Blaquart (France, 21 January)
 Vladimir Iveta (Croatia, 21 January)
 Are Habicht (Estonia, 22 January)
 Alan Freeland (Scotland, 22 January)
 Lassin Isaksen (Faroe Islands, 22 January)
 Teuvo Holopainen (Finland, 23 January)
 Harry M. Been (Netherlands, 23 January)
Pat Quigley (Republic of Ireland, 24 January) 70th
 Patrick Wattebled (France, 24 January)
 Nikolai Ivanov (Russia, 24 January)
Edi Šunjić (Croatia, 24 January) 50th
 Gevorg Hovhannisyán (Armenia, 25 January)
 Pascal Fritz (France, 25 January)
 Louis Peila (Switzerland, 25 January)
 Metin Kazancioglu (Turkey, 26 January)
 Mirosław Ryszka (Poland, 26 January)
 Florence Hardouin (France, 26 January)
 Cyril Zimmermann (Switzerland, 26 January)
 Krister Malmsten (Sweden, 27 January)
 Nikolai Tolstykh (Russia, 30 January)
 Cosimo Bolognino (Italy, 30 January)
 Brian Lawlor (Wales, 31 January)
 Andreas Santis (Cyprus, 31 January)

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Volker Roth (Germany, 1 February)
 Karen Espelund (Norway, 1 February)
 Leonardus van der Kroft (Netherlands, 2 February)
 Trygve Bornø (Norway, 2 February)
 Steen Dahrup (Denmark, 3 February)
 Mark Blackburne (England, 3 February)
 Renata Tomasova (Slovakia, 3 February)
 Jelena Oblakovic-Babic (Serbia, 3 February)
 Vaclav Krontl (Czech Republic, 5 February)
Peter Rudbaek (Denmark, 5 February) 60th
 Christian Bonett (Malta, 5 February)
Gabriel Weiss (Slovakia, 6 February) 60th
 Josep Maria Bartomeu (Spain, 6 February)
 Dusko Grabovac (Croatia, 7 February)
Michael Appleby (England, 8 February) 60th
 Fino Fini (Italy, 9 February)
 Donald McVicar (Scotland, 9 February)
 Danilo Filacchione (Italy, 9 February)
 Zoran Laković (Serbia, 9 February)
 Tomislav Karadžić (Serbia, 10 February)
 Luc Rabat (France, 10 February)
 Dani Koren (Israel, 10 February)

Götz Bender (Germany, 10 February)
 Stewart Regan (Scotland, 10 February)
 William McDougall (Scotland, 11 February)
 Annelie Larsson (Sweden, 11 February)
 Fritz Stuchlik (Austria, 11 February)
 Madeline Ekvall (Sweden, 11 February)
 Borislav Mihaylov (Bulgaria, 12 February)
 David McDowell (Slovenia, 12 February)
 Pierluigi Collina (Italy, 13 February)
 Christian Mutschler (Switzerland, 13 February)
 Marinus den Engelsman (Netherlands, 14 February)
 Manuel Lopez Fernandez (Spain, 14 February)
 Thomas Weyhing (Germany, 14 February)
 Livio Bazzoli (Italy, 14 February)
 Peter Bonde (Denmark, 14 February)
 Juan Carlos Miralles (Andorra, 14 February)
 John McBeth (Scotland, 15 February)
 Susanne Erlandsson (Sweden, 15 February)
 Leif Sundell (Sweden, 15 February)
 Katriina Elovirta (Finland, 15 February)
 Svitlana Shkil (Ukraine, 15 February)
 Orkhan Huseynzade (Azerbaijan, 15 February)
 Adalbert Kassai (Romania, 16 February)
 Roman Sowinski (Poland, 16 February)
 Karoly Török (Hungary, 16 February)
 Tervel Zlatev (Bulgaria, 16 February)
 Gudrun Inga Sivertsen (Iceland, 17 February)
 Jozef Vengloš (Slovakia, 18 February)
 Borislav Alexandrov (Bulgaria, 18 February)
 Flemming Serritslev (Denmark, 18 February)
 Patrick Kelly (Republic of Ireland, 18 February)
 Constantin Gheorghe (Romania, 18 February)
 Pertti Alaja (Finland, 18 February)
 Antonello Valentini (Italy, 18 February)
 Vasily Melnychuk (Ukraine, 18 February)
 Jordi Pascual (Andorra, 18 February)
 Petro Ivanov (Ukraine, 18 February)
 Janis Mezeckis (Latvia, 19 February)
 Lars Arnesson (Sweden, 20 February)
 Eggert Magnusson (Iceland, 20 February)
 Edward Potok (Poland, 20 February)
 João F. De Magalhães Marques (Portugal, 20 February)
 Patricia Moyersoen (France, 20 February)
 Gareth Latin (Gibraltar, 20 February)
 Ralph Zloczower (Switzerland, 21 February)
 Fernando Gomes (Portugal, 21 February)
 Jarmo Matikainen (Finland, 21 February)
 Asim Khudiyev (Azerbaijan, 22 February)
 Vladimir Sajn (Slovenia, 22 February)
 Ana Caetano (Portugal, 22 February)
 Peter Jones (England, 24 February)
 Janos Ring (Hungary, 24 February)
 Oleg Harlamov (Estonia, 24 February)
 Miroslav Radoman (Serbia, 25 February)
 Fevronia Minodora Ion (Romania, 25 February)
 Ghenadie Scurtul (Moldova, 26 February)

Egidius Braun (Germany, 27 February) 90th

Allan Hansen (Denmark, 27 February)
 Peter Lundström (Finland, 27 February)
 Ausrys Labinas (Lithuania, 27 February)
 John Beattie (England, 28 February)
 Markus Stenger (Germany, 28 February)

NOTICES

- Håkan Sjöstrand took over as general secretary of the Swedish Football Association on 17 November, replacing Mikael Santoft.
- The Football Association of Slovenia has moved to:
 Brnčičeva 41g
 1231 Ljubljana-Črnuče
 Slovenia

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

19 January, in Nyon
 European Women's Football Championship 2015–17: preliminary round draw

20 January, in Nyon
 Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee

26/27 January, in Nyon
 Executive Committee

27 January, in Nyon
 Stadium and Security Committee

3 February, in Nyon
 Media Committee

12 February, in Nyon
 HatTrick Committee
 National Associations Committee

20 February, in Nyon
 Women's Football Committee

Competitions

17/18 and 24/25 February
 UEFA Champions League:
 round of 16 (first legs)

19 February
 UEFA Europa League:
 round of 32 (first legs)

26 February
 UEFA Europa League:
 round of 32 (return legs)



NO TO RACISM



RESPECT