



No. 10/2022

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the president and the general secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		RIG/mpt	28 February 2022

Decision of the UEFA Executive Committee related to Russia

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since the last meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee that took place on 25 February 2022, where the topic of the situation related to Russia and Ukraine was discussed and some decisions were taken, the situation in Ukraine has continued to drastically escalate and the international community, including sport organisations, have taken a strong stance against these military interventions. UEFA, has continued evaluating the situation, especially, in the framework of its statutory values, mission and objectives.

In addition, an increasing number of UEFA national associations publicly voiced their intention to not participate in matches against teams from the Russian Football Union (RFU).

Further, the general public's reaction has the consequence that, even if matches against Russian teams would be staged on a neutral territory, there are serious concerns about the ability to ensure the safety and security for all those involved, i.e. delegations, players, supporters etc. This is of paramount importance for UEFA.

Equally, it has become known that several governments and the EU institutions have imposed flight bans from or to the Russian territory. This would have an additional considerable impact on the smooth staging and running of UEFA competition matches.

Following the above-mentioned reasons, it becomes regrettably evident that UEFA is no longer in a position to fully achieve its objectives as stipulated in the UEFA Statutes under Article 2 par. 1(b) [*"promote football in Europe in a spirit of peace, understanding and fair play, without any discrimination on account of politics, gender, religion, race or any other reason"*] and Article 2 par. 1(d) [*"organise and conduct international football competitions and tournaments at European level for every type of football whilst respecting the players' health"*].

Therefore, the UEFA Executive Committee met today and decided that, in order to be able to achieve its statutory objectives, all Russian representative teams and clubs are suspended from taking part in UEFA competition matches, until further notice.

As far as the upcoming Round of 16 matches of the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League between the German club, RB Leipzig, and the Russian club, FC Spartak Moskva, scheduled to take place on 10 and 17 March 2022 are concerned, it is uncertain when and if the suspension of Russian representative teams and clubs will be lifted.

Accordingly, in view of this uncertainty and taking into consideration that all pairings for the round of 16 of the relevant competition have been made, the UEFA Executive Committee has decided that RB Leipzig is automatically qualified to the next round of the competition.

The UEFA Executive Committee will continue to assess the developments of the situation and may meet again in the following days to potentially take further decisions.

The UEFA administration remains at your disposal in case of any questions.

Yours faithfully,

UEFA



Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

cc

- UEFA Executive Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA honorary members
- FIFA, Zurich