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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between**

**THE UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS EUROPEENNES DE FOOTBALL**

**(UEFA)**

**and**

**FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS EUROPE**

**(FSE)**

**(hereinafter jointly referred to as 'the Parties')**

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## PREAMBLE

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### Whereas:

- UEFA is the governing body for football at European level in accordance with UEFA Statutes;
- Further to the decision by the members of FSE and SD Europe to merge the two organisations in July 2022, FSE is recognised as the body representing the interests of football supporters at European level in accordance with its Statutes;
- UEFA and FSE wish to continue to promote cooperation among all stakeholders in European football and to take care of specific matters of concern to football supporters;
- UEFA and FSE entered into a previous partnership agreement in July 2017 under which they formally established the basis for their cooperation, which had originally started in 2008;
- UEFA and FSE wish to continue to reinforce their relationship by implementing this new arrangement, in accordance with the principles set out in this Memorandum of Understanding;
- The UEFA Statutes state that UEFA may recognise groups representing the interests of stakeholders in European football, provided they are constituted in a democratic, open, and transparent manner and share UEFA's values;
- The FSE Statutes envisage ongoing cooperation and dialogue between FSE and UEFA for the purposes of providing consolidated input on matters of concern to European football supporters;
- UEFA and FSE reaffirm their commitment to the European Sports Model and that football in Europe must remain open to all;
- The undertakings, values, and principles set out in this Memorandum of Understanding apply equally to men's and women's football;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties enter into this **Agreement**.

## **1. BASIS OF COOPERATION**

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- 1.1. UEFA recognises FSE as the body representing the interests of supporters at European level and FSE recognises UEFA as the governing body of football at European level.
- 1.2. UEFA and FSE undertake to strengthen their cooperation and dialogue on matters of importance to European football supporters.
- 1.3. UEFA and FSE share the following values and principles:
  - a commitment to the principle of solidarity as a key element necessary for the healthy and balanced development of football;
  - a commitment to ensuring that standards and principles of good governance, such as accountability, democracy, stakeholder participation/representation and transparency are firmly embedded within football governance structures;
  - a commitment to open and fair sporting competitions;
  - the recognition of the specific nature of sport and therefore the proper autonomy of its governing bodies;
  - a commitment to involving a broad range of stakeholders in the decision-making bodies of football;
  - a commitment to protecting, developing and supporting football at all levels;
  - a commitment to fair play, human rights, and the fight against discrimination, doping, violence, match-fixing and any other corruption in football.
- 1.4. More specifically, the Parties recognise that:
  - good governance principles such as accountability, democracy, stakeholder participation/representation and transparency need to be enhanced and promoted at all levels of the game;
  - supporters are integral to football and have the right to enjoy the game in a safe, secure, and welcoming environment, and that stadiums must be open to all, irrespective of ethnic origin, age, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation and religion;
  - supporters enjoy the same human rights as the rest of society and those rights should be protected while attending football matches.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION**

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To protect and promote these values and principles, the Parties agree to:

- 2.1. promote cooperation and friendly relations between UEFA and FSE in the interests of European football and within UEFA's existing framework;
- 2.2. safeguard the healthy development of European football, at both domestic and international levels, in accordance with the principles of solidarity and integrity of competition, while also recognising the importance of domestic competitions, including cup competitions, ensuring match calendars take into consideration supporters' reasonable expectations of being able to attend and travel to competitive fixtures;
- 2.3. ensure that supporters' views are adequately represented in the decision-making process within European football structures;
- 2.4. reinforce the European Sports Model and the football pyramid to protect football from breakaway initiatives that would undermine the principle of fair and open competitions based on sporting merit;
- 2.5. safeguard and work to enhance the rights and welfare of all supporters attending football matches in UEFA club and national team competitions;
- 2.6. use established processes in a constructive and timely manner to foster communication and mutual understanding even when the Parties hold divergent views.
- 2.7. explore further areas of future cooperation.

## **3. UNDERTAKINGS OF UEFA**

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To facilitate cooperation and achieve the shared objectives set out in this Agreement, UEFA undertakes to do the following:

- 3.1. recognise FSE as the body representing the interests of football supporters at European level on the basis of FSE's Statutes as approved on 23 July 2022, including any future amendment that UEFA considers consistent with the objectives and principles of this Agreement;
- 3.2. involve FSE in UEFA's decision-making processes, in application of commonly agreed good governance principles; in particular, UEFA will ensure that FSE representatives take part in:

- a) any UEFA body that may be created to exchange views and discuss major topical issues with the main European stakeholders in professional football and devise common solutions to them; and
- b) other relevant UEFA bodies, such as committees, panels and working groups, as appropriate.

For the avoidance of doubt, the FSE representatives will be appointed to committees and panels by the UEFA Executive Committee upon nomination by FSE.

- 3.3. encourage the involvement of Supporter Liaison Officers (SLOs) in match operations before, during, and after UEFA club competition matches, including qualifying rounds;
- 3.4. provide appropriate resources, i.e. time, funding and expertise, in support of supporter-related EU project applications and projects that are of mutual benefit to FSE and UEFA;
- 3.5. enhance the consultation of supporters as experts or contributors on supporter-related matters within UEFA structures by providing an internal contact point to ensure two-way communication;
- 3.6. work with UEFA member associations to ensure the values and principles of this Agreement are respected and promoted in a meaningful way and are based on an inclusive stakeholder approach at domestic level;
- 3.7. invite FSE representatives to attend the UEFA Congress;
- 3.8. provide the necessary support, including funding, to facilitate the implementation of the objectives and undertakings set out in this Agreement

#### **4. UNDERTAKINGS OF FSE**

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To facilitate cooperation and achieve the shared objectives set out in this Agreement, FSE undertakes to do the following:

- 4.1. recognise UEFA as the governing body of football at European level in accordance with the UEFA Statutes;
- 4.2. organise itself as an association that is open (i.e. to supporter groups and individual supporters of all clubs and UEFA member associations), democratic (in line with its current Statutes), and transparent (i.e. with clear and non-confrontational objectives in its Statutes) and to ensure that its members comply with the following principles, in accordance with Articles 2.5 and 4.8 of its Statutes:
  - o opposition to any form of discrimination;

- rejection of violence, both verbal and physical;
- empowerment of grassroots football supporters;
- promotion of a positive football and supporters' culture, including values such as fair play and good governance;

FSE further commits to inform UEFA in respect to any amendment made to the FSE Statutes in order to ensure and maintain consistency with the objectives and principles established under this Agreement;

- 4.3. support and promote the broadening representation and capacity-building of national and local supporter organisations in line with good governance principles, so that supporters are encouraged to be included in decision-making processes within their respective national governing bodies;
- 4.4. develop a membership strategy both at club and national organisation level throughout Europe, to ensure growth in representativeness together with a clearly defined and transparent membership structure;
- 4.5. contribute its expertise and advise UEFA and other competition organisers on matters relevant to supporters, which may include monitoring and observing matches, surveying supporters, collecting and sharing anonymised data and supporter feedback, and delivering detailed reports including instances of best practice and recommendations on areas of improvement in relation to supporter experience at the events;
- 4.6. deliver training on good hosting, supporter liaison, stadium infrastructure and facilities, policing of football matches, supporter culture, diversity and inclusion when required and requested;
- 4.7. provide support for national and local supporter organisations that wish to be involved in the decision-making processes and/or ownership structures of football clubs, whether entirely or partially owned by supporters, or those supporters that wish to preserve their clubs' traditions and heritage;
- 4.8. facilitate in the promotion and implementation of the SLO role by providing expert support and training, and carry out projects and initiatives that develop the potential of the role for local and national supporters' organisations, while also encouraging enhanced dialogue and communication between various football and non-football stakeholders and supporters' organisations;
- 4.9. develop targeted activities and resources related to the women's game, especially in regard to the development of its supporter culture as well as the integration of women's football supporters' groups in the FSE's membership and governance structure.

## 5. JOINT UNDERTAKINGS

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Both Parties commit to:

- 5.1. promoting and facilitating better governance among their members;
- 5.2. supporting and promoting the European Sports Model and protecting the values that define it, such as sporting merit, promotion and relegation in open competition, sociocultural identity, community links, solidarity, democracy and transparency;
- 5.3. promoting diversity, inclusion and accessibility in European football to ensure the game is open to everyone irrespective of ethnic origin, age, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation and religion;
- 5.4. encouraging the implementation of the 2016 Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Approach to Safety, Security and Service at Football Matches and Other Sports;
- 5.5. promoting and assisting the development of structured supporter dialogue policies at national level, in association with UEFA and FSE members;
- 5.6. working together to increase supporter representation throughout Europe, particularly in countries that do not yet have representative structures in place;
- 5.7. communicate and disseminate assessments and reports on the Parties' joint undertakings and outputs;
- 5.8. work towards meaningfully improving the experience of supporters at UEFA competitions through a variety of activities, including but not limited to:
  - a) development of a bilateral Visiting Fans Sector Working Group to identify and establish best practice guidelines, share and discuss reported issues, and work with relevant stakeholders to find possible solutions;
  - b) monitoring ticket prices, including the identification of isolated and recurring issues, and reviewing the challenges at the end of each season;
  - c) promoting the SLO role and incorporating it into matchday operations, including the delivery of SLO training, developing and promoting the European SLO network, and producing SLO-related resources;
  - d) including supporters' expertise in the preparation of UEFA club competitions (UECLF, UELF, UWCLF, UCLF and SCUP) and national team competitions (European Championship and Nations League) by involving supporters' representatives in working visits, sharing important information relevant to supporters prior to the event,

facilitating two FSE observers at each final, collating and sharing supporter feedback and debriefing on the event report;

e) facilitating cooperation between national team supporter organisations/fans' embassies, national associations and tournament organisers including during UEFA EURO, Nations League, and European qualifying competitions;

5.9. promoting the principles of this Agreement to the European institutions, UEFA national associations, FSE members, and other stakeholders;

5.10. fair exchange of views and good-faith discussions before communicating on matters of common interest and part of joint work.

## **6. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS AND DURATION**

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6.1. This Agreement enters into force on the date on which it is signed by the Parties.

6.2. Amendments to this Agreement must be agreed to in writing by both Parties.

6.3. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the above undertakings, acknowledgements or any other provision enter into force before this Agreement is signed, nor exceed the duration of this Agreement.

6.4. This Agreement expires on 31 July 2026 and relates in particular to the UEFA EURO 2024, UEFA club competitions (UEL, UECL, UWCL and UCL), and games played by UEFA national teams. Prior to expiry, the Parties will decide on an extension.

6.5. Each Party has the right to terminate this Agreement with immediate effect if the other Party has committed a substantial breach that has not been remedied within 30 days.

6.6. The Parties agree that, on expiry of this Agreement, they intend to extend it, unless there are considerable changes in circumstances that cause them to decide otherwise.

6.7. The right to represent its members is set out in the FSE Statutes (Article 2.5.a). It is the common understanding of the Parties that in order to benefit from the provisions of this Agreement, in particular as regards the support set out in Article 3.8 above, FSE members must be made aware of the conditions contained in this Agreement.



## 7. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

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Any dispute, controversy or claim arising in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled by the Parties through good-faith negotiations.

Nyon, 23 January 2023

For UEFA:

For FSE:

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Aleksander Čeferin  
President

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Ronan Evain  
Executive Director

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Julien Zylberstein  
Managing Director  
European Affairs and Governance

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Martha Gens  
Board member