

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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UEFA PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
2006/07



REPORT OF THE UEFA PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE July 2006 – June 2007

XXXII UEFA Ordinary Congress
Zagreb, Croatia, January 2008

SUMMARY

The 2006/07 season was marked, at the Ordinary Congress held in Düsseldorf at the start of 2007, by a change at the top of the UEFA hierarchy. After 17 years as president, Lennart Johansson handed the reins to Michel Platini, who was elected by the national association representatives by 27 votes to the outgoing president's 23. Michel Platini thus became UEFA's sixth president and his accession to the post resulted in changes that required the Statutes to be amended in order to bring them into line with the ideas on which the new president had based his election campaign.

An Extraordinary Congress was therefore held in Zurich on 28 May. The amendments of the Statutes were the main item on the agenda, the key idea being to strengthen the power of the elected representatives of the national associations. The proposed changes were unanimously approved by the delegates. They particularly concern the number of committees, which was increased in order to enable all the member associations to be represented by at least two of their senior officials within the UEFA organs, thus giving them better contacts and opportunities to participate in the life of UEFA.

Furthermore, all the committees – except the disciplinary bodies on account of the separation of powers – will in future be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee in order to facilitate better communication between the associations and UEFA's executive body.

Another important change is the establishment within the Statutes of a new advisory body, the Professional Football Strategy Council, which includes representatives of UEFA, leagues, clubs and players and forms a step towards the creation of a genuine Professional Football Charter. The president's role has also been redefined, taking into account the new president's desire to be based full-time at UEFA's Nyon headquarters. For this reason, the post of chief executive has been abolished and a general secretary will be responsible for managing the UEFA administration. This role was entrusted to David Taylor, previously the chief executive of the Scottish Football Association.

Although these changes required a period of transition which extended beyond the period covered by this report, they did not prevent UEFA from continuing its normal activities. Among other things, the Executive Committee even tried to step up its dialogue with the European Union bodies and continued to make every effort to ensure that recognition of the specificity of sport and the role of national and supranational associations become reality and produce a clear and stable legal framework.

The executive therefore followed with great interest the European Commission's efforts to draft a White Paper on Sport.

Published in summer 2007, this White Paper is still a long way from meeting UEFA's expectations.





MEETINGS

The Executive Committee had a particularly busy programme of meetings last season, especially in the second part, due to the Extraordinary Congress. In addition to the numerous individual tasks carried out by its members, such as the working group meetings, visits to national associations or representing UEFA at matches, it held ten meetings and the decisions listed below represent just a sample of the multitude and variety of subjects it has to deal with.

11 July 2006 in Berlin

- Final round of the 2009 European Women's Championship awarded to the Finnish Football Association.
- Approval of the regulations for the Under-17 and Under-19 competitions for the 2007/08 season.
- Decision to award the annual charity cheque for CHF 1 million to the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA).
- Approval of the regulations of the UEFA Regions' Cup 2006/07.

4-5 October 2006 in Ljubljana

- Admission of the Montenegrin Football Association as a provisional member of UEFA.
- Approval of the new manual concerning quality standards for the granting of club licences.
- Allocation of an additional CHF 600,000 of funding for the national associations as part of the HatTrick programme (over two years).
- Designation of Moscow's Luzhniki stadium as the venue for the UEFA Champions League final in 2008, the Olympic Stadium in Rome for the 2009 UEFA Champions League final, Manchester City's stadium for the 2008 UEFA Cup final and the Sükrü Saracoglu stadium in Istanbul for the 2009 UEFA Cup final.
- Final round of the 2009 European Under-21 Championship awarded to the Swedish Football Association.

7 December in Nyon

- Adoption of the agenda for the 2007 UEFA Congress in Düsseldorf.
- Approval of the budget to be presented at the 2007 Congress.
- Decision on the distribution of a EUR 40 million surplus of income from the 2006/07 UEFA Champions League.

24 January 2007 in Düsseldorf

- Authorisation for clubs from the three Baltic states to organise a Baltic League for one year.
- Approval of a star system as part of the UEFA Grassroots Charter.

26 January 2007 in Düsseldorf

- Authorisation for the associations of Andorra, San Marino and Montenegro to enter a club in the Champions League.

9 February in Nyon

- Constitution of the new Executive Committee.

26 March in Nyon

- Convocation of an Extraordinary Congress to be held in Zurich on 28 May.
- Approval of the amendments to the Statutes proposed at the Congress.
- Adoption of the voting procedure for appointing the hosts of EURO 2012.
- Appointment of David Taylor as new UEFA general secretary from 1 June 2007, subject to the approval of the new Statutes by the Extraordinary Congress.

17-18 April in Cardiff

- EURO 2012 awarded to the football associations of Poland and Ukraine.
- Approval, on an experimental basis, of a European Under-21 futsal tournament from 2008
- Approval of the club competition regulations for the 2007/08 season.

28 May in Zurich

- Adoption of the principles for the appointment of committee members.

22-23 June in Heerenveen

- Composition of the 19 UEFA committees for the 2007-09 period.
- Approval of the UEFA Organisational Regulations.
- Adoption of the formula for the European qualifying competition for the 2010 World Cup, with eight groups of six teams and one group of five.
- Approval of blood sampling as part of doping controls at EURO 2008.
- Approval of the regulations for the qualifying competition for the 2008 Futsal World Cup.
- Approval of the regulations for the 2007 Super Cup.





At the Düsseldorf Congress, the composition of the Executive Committee was also amended with the election of three new members: Mircea Sandu, Gilberto Madail and Grigoriy Surkis. At the February meeting, the Executive Committee coopted as members Friedrich Stickler (Austria) and Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland), representatives of the two national associations that will host EURO 2008, in order to provide a link between the Executive Committee and the organisers of the European Championship final round.

Meanwhile, UEFA welcomed its 53rd member, the Montenegrin Football Association, whose application was unanimously approved by the Congress in Düsseldorf. However, the request for membership submitted by the Football Association of Gibraltar was rejected.

Numerous subjects were more or less permanent fixtures on the Executive Committee's agendas: these included the UEFA competitions, their development and financial aspects; preparations for EURO 2008, issues linked to the European Union and its regulations, the fight against violence, racism and all forms of discrimination, strengthening of the national associations, technical development and the management of UEFA's financial resources.

The European members of FIFA's Executive Committee always participated in the working meetings of UEFA's executive body, ensuring the coherence of UEFA's position in all matters of common interest to the two bodies. The Executive Committee also benefited from the advice of the various committees and panels, as well as its four internal working groups and the group responsible for examining regulations submitted for its approval.

The Executive Committee also attached great importance to its relations with the national associations; it sent a representative to their annual congresses and was always willing to listen to their views. The UEFA president invited their presidents and general secretaries to Nyon to discuss the amendments to the Statutes

proposed at the Extraordinary Congress in Zurich. It should also be noted that the Executive Committee always worked constructively and harmoniously with FIFA and the other continental confederations. In January, as an expression of this desire to work in harmony with all parties involved in football, it organised a meeting of the European Professional Football Strategy Board, including representatives of the national associations, leagues and clubs.





FUTURE PROSPECTS

As long as European football, like other sports, remains at the mercy of civil courts which, through a single decision, can bring about major changes to the rules governing our sport, the Executive Committee will remain relentless in its efforts to convince Europe's politicians of the need to allow football to develop in a stable environment, providing a fair balance between sporting values and respect for the economic principles that underpin European Community regulations.

The Executive Committee is also well aware that football's voice will only be heard if it speaks as one and that the general interest should always take precedence over individual considerations. It will therefore continue to foster dialogue in all its forms within European football, knowing full well that its decisions will only be accepted by all stakeholders in the European game if they have had an opportunity to express and defend their points of view. The executive is also conscious that sport's position can only be maintained if it fully assumes its social functions and is ruthless in its efforts to combat political racketeering, corruption, violence and cheating in all its forms.

Once again, we are calling for solidarity in order that football can enhance its influence, not only by continuing to offer financial support to charitable organisations, disabled athletes and social projects, but by promoting integration and setting a positive example in our society.



LIST OF WINNERS

- 1956 Real Madrid CF - 1957 Real Madrid CF - 1958 Real Madrid CF - 1959 Real Madrid CF - 1960 Real Madrid CF - 1961 FC Bayern
- 1962 Real Madrid CF - 1963 AC Milan - 1964 FC Internazionale Milano - 1965 FC Internazionale Milano - 1966 Real Madrid CF - 1967 Celtic FC
- 1968 Manchester United FC - 1969 Ajax FC - 1970 Feyenoord - 1971 AFC Ajax - 1972 AFC Ajax - 1973 AFC Ajax - 1974 FC Bayern München
- 1975 FC Bayern München - 1976 FC Bayern München - 1977 Liverpool FC - 1978 Liverpool FC - 1979 Nottingham Forest FC - 1980 Nottingham Forest FC
- 1981 Liverpool FC - 1982 Aston Villa FC - 1983 FC Bayern München - 1984 Liverpool FC - 1985 Liverpool FC - 1986 Juventus - 1987 Dinamo Bucuresti - 1988 FC Porto
- 1989 FC Barcelona - 1990 FC Bayern München - 1991 FC Internazionale Milano - 1992 FC Internazionale Milano - 1993 Olympique de Marseille - 1994 AC Milan
- 1995 FC Bayern München - 1996 Juventus - 1997 FC Internazionale Milano - 1998 Real Madrid CF - 1999 Manchester United FC - 2000 Real Madrid CF
- 2001 FC Bayern München - 2002 Real Madrid CF - 2003 AC Milan - 2004 FC Porto - 2005 Liverpool FC - 2006 FC Barcelona - 2007 AC Milan



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