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Including



**XXXIV Ordinary
UEFA Congress
in Tel Aviv 03**

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in Hamburg
and Madrid 08**

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leagues survey 12**





Photos: uefa.apj/woods.ch

Message of the president

Good news from Europe

The relationship between UEFA and the European Union (EU), or European Community (EC) as it used to be known, was not established on the best of foundations. European football's governing body was seen as arrogant and accused of seeking to bypass EC legislation because of the specific nature of sport, a notion that was not obvious to those outside the game, not least because of the mixed messages from those inside, with the clubs, leagues, national associations and players all expressing different opinions.

UEFA, on the other hand, was irked by the ever growing interference of the European institutions in matters that football was used to governing itself, in accordance with long-established principles. It also bemoaned the fact that sport was generally treated like just any other economic activity, despite the game's professional tier forming only the apex of a pyramid in which all of the other layers are inextricably linked.

This mutual lack of understanding arguably reached its peak in December 1995, when the European Court of Justice issued the 'Bosman ruling', which left the transfer fee system in ruins and prohibited all nationality-based restrictions on players from EU member states.

Subsequently, while it never relinquished its convictions, football came to realise that it had nothing to gain from confrontation, and that the way forward was through dialogue and greater mutual understanding.

The EU adopted a similar approach and has since been persuaded not only that football and sport cannot simply be defined by their professional tiers, but that they also possess huge social value and can act as powerful tools for integration.

The fruits of this much more serene climate are already being seen. The Lisbon Treaty's recognition of the specific nature of sport certainly represents an important milestone in the relationship between the EU and the sporting authorities. Another very positive development came in Luxembourg, where the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in favour of training compensation for any club forced to give up one of its young players to another club after they have completed their training. Moreover, the court specified that compensation should be calculated based on the total costs of the club's training programme and not only those relating to the player concerned.

Meanwhile, the European Commission has invited UEFA to contribute to the European pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, which opens in May. This is a sign of its recognition of the social importance of football and is something of which we can be very proud.



Michel Platini
UEFA President

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COVER

Olympique Lyonnais (Cesar Delgado) overcame Girondins de Bordeaux (Benoit Tremoulinas) to qualify for the UEFA Champions League semi-finals for the first time.

Photo: Getty Images

XXXIV Ordinary UEFA Congress

Continuity and stability



Photos: UEFA/Woods

FOR THE FIRST TIME, ON 25 MARCH, AN ORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS MET OUTSIDE EUROPE, THOUGH, OF COURSE, THE HOST OF THE 34TH SUCH ASSEMBLY, THE ISRAEL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, HAS BEEN A FULL MEMBER OF UEFA SINCE 1994.

While there were no elections on the agenda this year, the congress ended on an air of electoral anticipation, with the UEFA president, Michel Platini, declaring his intention to stand for re-election at next year's UEFA Congress, describing himself as very happy in the role. His announcement was warmly received by the delegates, a reflection of the harmony that prevails in European football at present and that defines UEFA's relationship with FIFA and the other confederations.

The tone for the congress was set by the president of Israel, **Shimon Peres**, joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994. He chose to deliver a message of hope, underlining the value of football as a vehicle for peace: "Foot-

ball brings people together, transcending borders, skin colour and religion. It was at the vanguard of the fight against racism," he said, also stressing football's huge educational value. In what was also a message in support of perseverance and engagement, Shimon Peres emphasised that talent



Shimon Peres, president of Israel, addresses the UEFA Congress in Tel Aviv.

is not just about having a gift, but a process, and one that required hours and hours of practice. "To be a good player, you must work, and work very hard," he said, before shifting his focus to regional politics to end his address: "Build. Negotiate. And while we build and negotiate, the gap between us is closing."

The president of the Israel Football Association, **Avraham Luzon**, was equally keen to emphasise the educational dimension of football and the joy and happiness that it can bring. "Our aim," he said in conclusion, "is to eliminate violence and racism from the stadiums."

The FIFA president, **Joseph S. Blatter**, further reinforced a mood that was characterised by harmony and hope. He said that the forthcoming World Cup finals in South Africa offered hope for the whole of Africa, emphasising that "football is not just a sport, it is a social force" and that,



Joseph S. Blatter, FIFA president



Avraham Luzon, president of the Israel Football Association

in a troubled world, people needed emotion, passion and hope. The FIFA president also expressed his delight that, just as Africa was preparing to stage the World Cup for the first time, Israel was also hosting the international football community for the first time, thanks to the UEFA Congress.

Healthy financial situation

In the financial sphere too, despite all the troubles that have beset the global economy, European football continues to enjoy stability. Although the chairman of the UEFA Finance Committee, **Marios N. Lefkaritis**, announced a net negative result of EUR 27.9 million for the previous season, the organisation remains on an extremely healthy financial footing. The negative balance is due to the fact that revenues from European Championship final rounds are no longer split over four years but are amassed within the financial year when the final round takes place, which results in a cycle of one extremely positive year followed by three years with a loss. The result for 2008/09 must therefore be considered very positive, with a loss of less than the EUR 44 million provided for in the budget, thanks to higher than anticipated revenues of EUR 907,318,000, and reduced expenditure.

The 2008/09 consolidated annual accounts were duly approved, as was the budget for 2010/11.

Amendments to the UEFA Statutes

The congress agenda included several amendments to the UEFA Statutes proposed by the Executive Committee. These amendments sought, among other purposes, to

strengthen the autonomy of the member associations (Art. 7bis, 2: *Member associations shall manage their affairs independently and with no influence from third parties...*), to codify current practices (the president of UEFA does not have to hold an active office in his national association), to express annual dues from the member associations in euros instead of Swiss francs, to update the list of UEFA competitions, to clarify the provisions regarding prohibited

relations, and also to enshrine within the statutes the principle of promotion and relegation and the concept of community football service as a disciplinary measure.

All of the motions were duly and unanimously adopted and the new version of the UEFA Statutes entered into force on 1 April.

The next Ordinary UEFA Congress is scheduled to take place in Paris on 22 March 2011.

20 years ago

In April 1990, the general meeting of European football's governing body took place in Malta and was marked by the election of the successor to Jacques Georges, UEFA president since 1983, who had decided not to stand for re-election. There were two candidates for the position: Sweden's Lennart Johansson and Switzerland's Freddy Rumo. Elected in the first ballot, Mr Johansson began what was to be a long tenure at the helm of UEFA. He was re-elected for three further terms – in 1994 in Vienna, 1998 in Dublin and 2002 in Stockholm.

Since becoming honorary president of UEFA, Mr Johansson has continued to closely follow the work of the Executive Committee, and he was in Tel Aviv for the committee meeting and the congress. *"My election in 1990 was particularly special as I had only been a member of the Executive Committee for two years and I faced a formidable opponent in Freddy Rumo, who was then a vice-president of UEFA,"* Mr Johansson recalled.

"I also have fond memories of the election in 2002, as the congress took place in my home country, in Sweden, and the atmosphere was especially warm."



Lennart Johansson

Photos: UEFA-Woods



Senes Erzik

Another leading figure in European football also celebrated a 20th anniversary in Tel Aviv. It was at the Malta congress that Senes Erzik was first elected to the Executive Committee. Not only has he remained a member ever since; in 1994 he became a UEFA vice-president and is currently first vice-president. Only Nikolay Ryashentsev (from 1966 to 1994) and Vaclav Jira (1968-1992) enjoyed a longer tenure on UEFA's executive body.



Efforts must be kept up in preparation for EURO 2012.

Sportsfile



All UEFA member associations were represented at the congress.

UEFA-Woods

Review of activities

The UEFA president's address

UEFA's activities during 2008/09 were covered in the *Report of the President and Executive Committee* and the *UEFA Administration Report*, which were combined in a single publication distributed to the member associations and approved by their delegates during the congress. This publication also included reports on the UEFA committees, which were supplemented in Tel Aviv by brief oral presentations by the chairman of each committee on their mission and current activities.

In his address to the UEFA Congress, the UEFA president reported back on the progress made with the four key challenges that he had highlighted at last year's congress in Copenhagen:

■ **EURO 2012:** the anticipated difficulties had been borne out, all the more so as the economic crisis had impacted heavily on the two organising nations, Poland and Ukraine. "We have constantly had to adapt and adjust how we go about tackling this major challenge," the UEFA president acknowledged. "Nevertheless, it is not without a degree of pride that I can say to you

today: yes, we stood by that decision, and yes, as we decided and promised, EURO 2012 will take place in Poland and Ukraine.

He added: "Of course, the conditions may not be exactly the same as at the two previous European Championship final rounds.

But having visited these countries several times, I can tell you that the fervour and enthusiasm are greater than ever."

■ **Financial fair play:** "...since Copenhagen... the families of football... have all unanimously

approved our concept and the principles of financial fair play," confirmed the UEFA president, adding that these principles had been actively "supported and encouraged by the European Union." He also mentioned the creation of the Club Financial Control Panel, chaired by Belgium's Jean-Luc Dehaene, and stated that, "from the 2012/13 season, clubs participating in European competitions will have to follow a simple but demanding rule: they will not be allowed to spend more than they earn."

■ **International transfer of minors:** in Copenhagen, the UEFA president had underlined the need to persuade political institutions to sanction a ban on international transfers involving under-18s. In Tel Aviv, he described the issue as "undoubtedly the area in which progress is proving hardest to achieve... But we are making progress. It is a lengthy process, involving poli-



Michel Platini gives his speech to the congress

UEFA-Woods



The UEFA president, Michel Platini, and the mayor of Nyon, Daniel Rossellat, sign on the dotted line.

And we are succeeding! He emphasised that a zero-tolerance policy had been adopted against cheats.

The president concluded his speech by expressing his thanks to the delegates and delivering a message of confidence in the face of the challenges that the future held and that UEFA was ready to embrace, bolstered by an administrative structure that had been reconfigured in order to better meet the needs.

The UEFA president also spoke of the 49-year agreement concluded with the Nyon authorities to take over the management of the Colovray sports centre: *"We are going to create a true centre of European football for the 53 associations,"* he explained. *"We will be able to carry out development programmes in fields as varied as grassroots football, women's football, refereeing and sports medicine."*

The Colovray sports centre will be managed by UEFA for the next 49 years.

tical meetings, lobbying and heavy, complex dossiers... But I firmly believe that it is our duty to protect children, to safeguard their education. It is a social battle we are waging, a noble and just battle." The UEFA president said the president of the European Parliament had also confirmed his full and total support, while the president of the European Commission had requested a full dossier on the subject in order to see *"if it is possible to take appropriate and reasonable measures."*

■ **Illegal betting fraud:**

"I believe this is the greatest danger we face," the UEFA president told the congress. *"Thanks to the fraud detection system that we set up... we have been able to help the public authorities in their investigations by providing them with a whole series of evidence about certain matches suspected of having been fixed. In brief, within the space of just a few months, we have given ourselves the means to succeed."*



All decisions were unanimous.

On the congress sidelines



Draws were held to decide the fixture lists for certain EURO 2012 qualifying groups.

■ With representatives of every national association in attendance, the 34th Ordinary UEFA Congress provided an opportunity to complete the EURO 2012 qualifying schedule, with a draw in the afternoon after the congress for the four groups in which the teams involved had been unable to finalise the fixtures among themselves.



After the congress, delegates visited Jerusalem and its holy sites.

■ In the evening, the national association delegates attended a dinner in Jerusalem as the guests of the Israel Football Association.



– the associations of Belarus, Cyprus, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Turkey and Wales signed up to the UEFA Referee Convention;

– the associations of Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia signed the UEFA Grass-roots Charter.

■ On the eve of the congress, several associations ratified their adherence to various UEFA charters and conventions:

– the national associations of Kazakhstan and Moldova signed the UEFA Coaching Convention;



Photos: UEFA-Woods

■ During the reception held in Tel Aviv for delegates on the eve of the congress, the UEFA president presented gifts to the three national association presidents – Pekka Härmäläinen (Finland, center), Peter Rees (Wales, top) and Ralph Zloczower (Switzerland, bottom) – who had stepped down from their posts in 2009.



The legendary Uwe Seeler is acting as ambassador for the final in Hamburg.

Coffini/AFP/Getty Images



Grassroots activities will be directly linked to the elite European club competition finals.

Sportsfile

End of the Grassroots blossom in May

MADRID WILL BE THE EPICENTRE OF THE FIRST UEFA GRASSROOTS DAY ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY.

For almost a decade, UEFA has been forging strong links between the base and the peak of the European football pyramid by pegging grassroots events to the UEFA Champions League final. But switching the world's biggest club final to a Saturday will make it even friendlier to children and families and will generate important knock-on benefits in terms of enhancing and promoting grassroots activities. The run-up to the big final at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu features a whole week of them, and a series of special events in Madrid on the first ever UEFA Grassroots Day will trigger activities on an unprecedented scale right across the continent.

The idea behind posting a Grassroots Day on the European calendar is to recognise and celebrate grassroots football and its importance to

modern society. But it is by no means a one-day stand. The best way to measure the dimensions of the concept is to visit uefagrassrootsday.com, the website launched in February with a view not only to publicising the events scheduled for Wednesday 19 May but also to inspiring grassroots activities on, before and after the red-letter day.

Educational material

It's worth having a look, for example, at the educational material posted on the website, which has been very well received by schoolteachers, parents and coaches all over Europe. Online lessons have been designed in a football-match format with a 'warm-up' (an introduction to the main topic), a 'team talk' during the interval between the two periods of 45 minutes, a 'match analysis'

at the end of the 90 minutes and, potentially, 'extra time' to be assigned to follow-up work.

The connecting thread of the lessons is teamwork, with football used as a trigger to discuss the relevance of teamwork to family, professional and social lifestyles. Among the topics are how to react to winning and losing, the ingredients of the 'good supporter' and the qualities that make up a great team.

UEFA Europa League final in Hamburg

And, of course, the great teams of the 2009/10 season will be playing for silverware at the club competition finals staged in May. The first curtain to be raised will be at the Hamburg Arena, the venue for the first ever UEFA Europa



The Hamburg Arena is the venue for the first UEFA Europa League final.

Pollex/Boutangs/Getty Images



Emilio Butragueño, ambassador for the final in Madrid, helps out at the draw in Monaco at the start of the season.

SPORTSFILE



Spectators attending the UEFA Women's Champions League final at the Coliseum Alfonso Pérez Stadium on 20 May will have the opportunity to enter a draw to win ten pairs of tickets for the UEFA Champions League final at the Santiago Bernabéu two days later.

European club season

League final. The event will give rise to other firsts too. It will be the first UEFA final to feature the two additional assistant referees. And it will be the first single-match final to be played in Hamburg, where local fans will not wish to be reminded of previous experience. After losing 1-0 in Sweden, Hamburger SV entertained IFK Göteborg in the second leg of the 1982 UEFA Cup final and were beaten 3-0.

Hamburg has happier memories of UEFA events. The German city – with its two main clubs, Hamburger SV and FC St. Pauli – was the venue for UEFA's eighth grassroots workshop just over a year ago and among the people who took to the stage was the city's most famous footballing son, Uwe Seeler. Since then, he has been acting as ambassador for the historic UEFA Europa League final, with occasional support from Horst Hrubesch who, as a player, was champion of Europe with club (HSV in 1983) and country (in 1980) and, as a coach, won UEFA's Under-19 and Under-21 titles for Germany in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

Uwe Seeler will team up with UEFA's president, Michel Platini, at the Rathausmarkt (not too long a walk from the fan zone on the Spielbudenplatz) the day before the big game to present medals to the winners of grassroots tournaments for school teams in age groups between 9 and 14, at which the ball started rolling a couple of months before the UEFA Europa League final.

Eight days later, on UEFA Grassroots Day, Michel Platini will be teaming up with the former Real Madrid and Spain defender Fernando Hierro for a similar presentation in Madrid. But that's by no means the only event to be staged in the Spanish capital on Grassroots Day.

Grassroots awards

During the morning of Wednesday 19 May, Fernando Hierro, currently the Spanish national association's

technical director, will chair a press conference alongside his UEFA counterpart, Andy Roxburgh, at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu to set the scene for the UEFA Grassroots Day and explain the philosophy behind it. On the same day, Michel Platini will ceremonially hand over a commemorative urban mini-pitch to the city of Madrid. And the UEFA president will also be presenting grassroots 'Oscars' to the winners of UEFA Grassroots Awards for outstanding achievements in the categories of best grassroots leader, best grassroots project and best grassroots club. All 53 member associations were invited to propose candidates, with nominees and winners selected by the UEFA Grassroots Panel. Without giving too much away, we can reveal that the nominees come from (in alphabetical order) Armenia, Belarus, England, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Scotland and Ukraine.

UEFA Grassroots Day will also feature, during the afternoon, a wide range of grassroots and elite youth exhibition activities in the huge Champions Festival area in the Parque del Retiro which, it has to be said, will be a hive of activity for much more than a single day. Staging the UEFA Champions League final on a Saturday opens the door to a long list of grassroots activities during a whole week when Madrid will be the epicentre from which constructive vibrations will be felt all over Europe, with all 53 member associations organising events aimed at promoting and celebrating their own grassroots programmes and highlighting the fact that they form the foundations on which the whole game is built. Arguably the most spectacular is scheduled to take place in Germany where, on UEFA Grassroots Day, almost all of the country's 1,000 mini-pitches

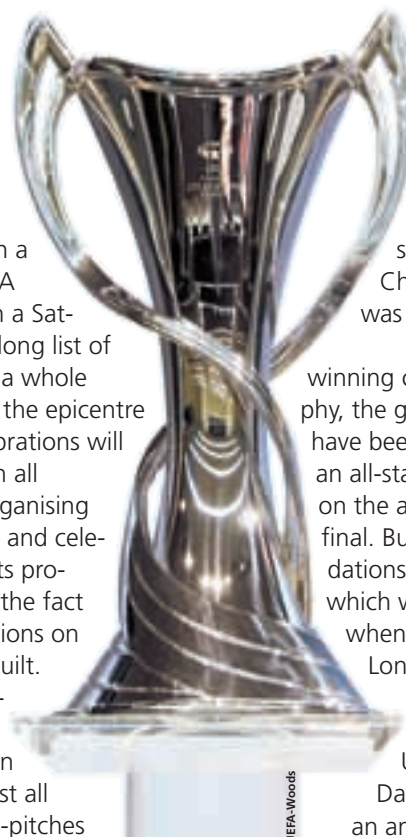
will be put to good use for activities involving youngsters, organised by the national association, and its regional divisions under the 'Strong Kids, True Champions' slogan. Apart from offering opportunities to enjoy kicking a ball around and encouraging more boys and girls to become involved in club football, there'll be an emphasis on social skills within community outreach projects.

Season climaxes

Going back to Madrid, the emphasis on linking the base of the pyramid to its peak will result in an event of unparalleled dimensions and, as in Hamburg, a number of firsts. On Thursday 20 May, the first final of the UEFA Women's Champions League will be played on the outskirts of Madrid – and will be the first UEFA final to be staged at the Coliseum Alfonso Pérez in Getafe.

Two days later, the men's club season reaches its climax with the first Saturday final and the first to be played at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu since the UEFA Champions League was born in 1992.

By the time the winning captain lifts the trophy, the grassroots events will have been rounded off by an all-star exhibition game on the afternoon of the big final. But, in Madrid, foundations will have been laid which will be built upon when the final travels to London next year. Like the UEFA Champions League final, UEFA Grassroots Day is set to become an annual fixture.



UEFA-WOODS

The UEFA Women's Cup has become the UEFA Women's Champions League, complete with new trophy.



Jim Boyce conducted the final round draw, with the help of Liechtenstein international Peter Jehle.



Representatives of the eight finalists at the draw

European Under-17 Championship final round Football festival in Liechtenstein

THE EUROPEAN UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL ROUND IS BEING HELD IN LIECHTENSTEIN FROM 18 TO 30 MAY 2010.
THE PREPARATIONS ARE IN FULL SWING AND LIECHTENSTEIN IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A TOP-CLASS FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL.



Photos: LFV

The semi-finals and final will take place at the Rheinpark stadium.



After 2003, this is the second time that UEFA has entrusted Liechtenstein with the task of organising the final round of a European youth championship. The continent's eight best national Under-17 teams will be competing in the small principality from 18 to 30 May, when 15 matches will be held to determine the 2010 European champions. Title-holders Germany were narrowly eliminated in the qualifying stages. However, Spain, Portugal, England, Greece, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and, finally, France, the best elite round runners-up, have all qualified for the final tournament. Due to serious squad problems, Liechtenstein was forced to withdraw its team from the competition in mid-February, creating a free place in the final round, which France managed to secure.

THE GROUPS

The draw to decide the two final round groups was held in Vaduz on 7 April, under the guidance of Jim Boyce, first vice-chairman of the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee, with the help of Peter Jehle, goalkeeper on the Liechtenstein national team.

Group A: Spain, Portugal, France, Switzerland

Group B: Greece, Turkey, England, Czech Republic

Showcase for European youth football

Even though their own U17s will be missing, the whole of Liechtenstein is looking forward to the tournament, the preparations for which have been in full swing for a long time. All the employees of the small Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV), led by tournament director and LFV general secretary, Roland Ospelt, are involved in the organ-

isation and are doing their utmost to put on a perfect and enjoyable event. It is a great honour and joy for the Liechtenstein Football Association to host this important showcase for European youth football. Both in and around the stadiums, 'Liechtenstein 2010' will be a friendly festival of football held against the wonderful backdrop of the Alps.

Two stadiums

The phrase "small is beautiful" certainly applies to Liechtenstein! The final tournament will be different from the 2009 edition, held in Germany, not least because of the size of the host country. Whereas no fewer than 12 different stadiums were used in last year's tournament, this time only two stadiums will stage the matches. Whereas the teams were all accommodated in two hotels, there isn't a single hotel in Liechtenstein with anything like the required number of rooms. Whereas the distances in Germany were huge, everything is close together in the small principality. Training grounds, stadiums and hotels are literally only a stone's throw apart.

The group phase matches will be held at the Rheinpark stadium in the capital city, Vaduz, and at the Sportpark Eschen-Mauren in the municipality of Eschen. Both semi-finals and the final will be held at the Rheinpark stadium, the venue for all matches played by Liechtenstein's national teams.

Information about the host country and the final round can be found on the website www.u17.li, which has been created especially for the tournament.

Judith Frommelt



Natasa Andonovska, one of FYR Macedonia's young hopefuls



Winners in 2009, England are travelling to FYR Macedonia to defend their title.



Zarko Ignjatovski, tournament director

Final phase of the WU-19 Championship

Enhancing the popularity of women's football

EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN UEFA AND THE FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF THE FYR OF MACEDONIA (FFM) AND SOLID EXPERIENCE IN HOSTING YOUTH AND WOMEN'S QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS (ABOUT 30 TO DATE) UNDERPIN THE FFM'S ORGANISATION OF THE FINAL ROUND OF THE 2009/10 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP.



Skopje, the capital of FYR Macedonia (almost 1 million inhabitants), features a number of stadiums and other infrastructure necessary for such an event.

Situated 40km from Skopje, the other venue, Kumanovo, is also a well-equipped city of about 100,000 inhabitants.

The FFM has for a long time taken steps through schools to involve girls in football, by hiring coaches and teachers tasked with organising women's teams in cooperation with local clubs. This final round is seen as an opportunity to further enhance the popularity of women's football.

Zarko Ignjatovski, the tournament director, explains:

"The FFM, together with UEFA, began actively preparing all infrastructure and organisational needs four months ago and the FFM and the local organising committee are satisfied with developments on the ground.

"UEFA has already carried out two inspections and made specific arrangements with the hotels which will be used for the event. All indicators show that the FFM is fully prepared.

"Thanks to the experience of the FFM, we have embraced this challenge. We have a team which also includes a number of external partners, so I'm sure we will represent our country at the highest possible level and I hope that we will organise other top events in the future.

"We hope this event will provoke greater interest in the game among young

girls and will help to increase the quality and quantity of women's domestic competitions.

"We expect that many fans will support to the Macedonian women's U19 team in their debut appearance. I have to say that none of this could be achieved without the support of UEFA, the board of the FFM, the FFM president, Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, and everyone working in Macedonian football. The help and understanding of the government, through the agency for youth and sport, the city of Skopje and the local authorities of Gorce Petrov, Ilinden, Karpos, Gazi Baba and Kumanovo have also been indispensable. The sponsors will play an important role in promoting the competition too."

Four venues

The matches will be played from 24 May to 5 June at the Philip II national

arena, the Boris Trajkovski stadium and the Zelezarnica stadium in Skopje, and at the Bashkimi stadium in Kumanovo.

The national arena is the stadium with the highest capacity. It currently seats 10,000, but is undergoing renovations and will have a capacity of over 30,000.

The capacity of the other stadiums is between 1,500 and 3,000.

Aside from the match venues, other stadiums and pitches have been renovated for use as training venues.

More than 100 people are due to work on the event. The opening match is being held on 24 May at the national arena, with a grassroots event at the city park beforehand, when it is hoped many children will get involved under the guidance of grassroots coaches and leaders.

"For us this is a great event and, above all, recognition of Macedonian football and the FFM. I look forward to once again proving what excellent organisers and hosts we are. Many of the teams participating in this tournament have already been our guests. I am sure that they will again enjoy the beauty of our country and that our fans will enjoy the beautiful, high-quality women's football on offer," the FFM president, Haralampie Hadzi-Risteski, said.

The teams participating in the European Women's Under-19 Championship finals are FYR Macedonia, England, France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy and Scotland.

Zoran Nikolovski



The national stadium in Skopje



Artificial pitches, like this one at the Stade de Suisse in Bern, are allowed in most leagues.

Empics Sport



Almost a third of leagues, including the French Ligue 1, organise a league cup competition.

Frife/AP/Getty Images

League organisations in Europe

A survey in four parts

THE UEFA PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL SERVICES UNIT RECENTLY PUBLISHED ITS SURVEY OF LEAGUE ORGANISATIONS FOR 2009/10. THE SURVEY GATHERS INFORMATION DETAILING ORGANISATIONAL, POLITICAL AND LEGAL STRUCTURES, AS WELL AS LEAGUE COMPETENCES ACROSS MANY OF THE 53 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS WHERE SEPARATE LEAGUE ORGANISATIONS EXIST.

The report aims to inform and educate all of those within the football family and other stakeholders with facts and trends to assist in understanding the role of the professional football leagues. In order to make informed decisions when formulating new policies or regulations, current and up-to-date information about leagues is important so that any potential implications can be anticipated and considered in an informed way.

The survey is divided into four main parts: league structures, league organisation, league competences and domestic competitions.

Forms and structures

The league structures section provides facts about league legal forms (limited company, association, etc.), the status of

players (full-time professional, part-time, amateur, etc.) and divisional structure (number of clubs, divisions and teams). Results indicate that across all the premier and non-premier leagues there is an average of 31 clubs in an average league organisation and there are approximately 24 clubs in the average premier league organisation.

Organisation

The league organisation section details the make-up of league assemblies and congresses, the roles of league executives and league involvement and participation within the national association. For example, across all the leagues, approximately 44% of the leagues' chairmen or presidents are also vice-chairmen/presidents of the national association and

another 28% are board members. Twenty-two percent have no role at the national association. Six percent have "other" functions.

Competences

The section on league competences gives an indication about the leagues' degree of competence in fixture scheduling, commercial sales, refereeing and disciplinary action. This section also specifies the proportion of leagues that have collective bargaining agreements (CBAs), a standard player's contract, main sponsors (and the type of sponsor), rules which allow artificial turf, and how many leagues hold league cup competitions. According to the results, 60% of the leagues have collective bargaining agreements and 86% have a national standard player's contract. Thirty-one percent of the leagues indicate that they organise league cup competitions.

Domestic competitions

The fourth segment of the report tends to focus on a specific detail about domestic competitions. This year's survey focused on promotion and relegation mechanisms as well as trends in league sizes. There were interesting facts about the number of leagues that have grown larger or smaller over the past five years, as well as the proportion of the league that is promoted and relegated between divisions. Lastly, an interesting piece of analysis examined which leagues involved play-off systems to determine how many clubs were promoted or relegated. Perhaps surprisingly, approximately 58% of the leagues hold play-offs in order to determine a proportion of clubs that are promoted and/or relegated.

The report not only looks at all league organisations together but also in different segments and cross sections. Results are analysed within three groupings for comparison: all league organisations, those belonging to the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL), and those belonging to the five highest-ranked leagues (England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain). The survey focuses on leagues that are deemed distinct from the national association, and includes both premier and non-premier leagues.



1.FC Nürnberg and Energie Cottbus in their play-off for a place in the 2009/10 Bundesliga

Getty Images



The Executive Committee ahead of its meeting in Tel Aviv

UEFA-Woods



News from Brussels

On 29 March, the UEFA president, Michel Platini, and the European commissioner for culture, education, multilingualism and youth, Androulla Vassiliou, who also has responsibility for sport, met to continue the ongoing dialogue between UEFA and the European Commission.



Michel Platini presents a pennant to Androulla Vassiliou.

The meeting was requested by the UEFA president in a letter of congratulations sent to Androulla Vassiliou the day after her appointment as commissioner (see *uefadirect* Nos 95 and 96). It marked one of her debuts at the head of sport at the European Commission.

The commissioner was quick to highlight the good relationship forged by her predecessor, Ján Figel, and UEFA. "I hope to maintain the same spirit of cooperation between our two organisations," she said at the start of their discussion.

Michel Platini and Androulla Vassiliou reviewed the main problems currently facing the national associations, as well as the issues affecting the governance of European football, such as financial fair play, sports betting, the fight against violence, the role of players' agents and, lastly, the protection of young players and academies. On many of these issues, the European Commission appears to share UEFA's point of view.

Meetings and other activities

Club competition regulations approved

IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, THE UEFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET BEFORE THE ANNUAL ORDINARY UEFA CONGRESS IN TEL AVIV ON 23 AND 24 MARCH, WITH THE PRESIDENT, MICHEL PLATINI, IN THE CHAIR.

The committee rearranged the agenda somewhat in order to begin the meeting by welcoming Jean-Luc Dehaene, chairman of the Club Financial Control Panel, who gave an update on the progress made in the field of financial fair play. The concept proposed by UEFA has received the full support of the European Club Association (ECA), while the professional leagues (EPFL) and Jerzy Buzek, president of the European Parliament, have also given the measures their support.

Three meetings

The panel, which has already met three times since last November, is responsible for ensuring that licences are correctly granted to clubs in all the member associations and that the clubs fully meet the conditions laid down in the *UEFA Club Licensing Regulations*.

During the transitional period leading up to the entry into force of specific regulations in 2012/13, the panel will also have the task of advising clubs and drawing conclusions from this experimental phase.

Transfer amendments

The Executive Committee also approved the regulations of the 2010/11 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League, and the 2010 UEFA Super Cup. In doing so, it decided to retain the current system

of suspension after three yellow cards while the consequences of changing the system (see *uefadirect* No. 96) are studied in more detail. However, it did amend the rules on the transfer of players between clubs participating in the UEFA competitions, by allowing a player to join another club, even if it is playing in the same competition, on condition that the selling club is eliminated in the qualifying matches for the UEFA Champions League, or during the qualifying or play-off matches for the UEFA Europa League. The transferred player may play from the group stage onwards.

The provisions concerning the registration of new players from the round of 16 (UEFA Champions League) or round of 32 (UEFA Europa League) remain unchanged. →



Jean-Luc Dehaene gives his report on the work already done in the field of financial fair play.

UEFA-Woods

→ Emphasising the central role played by sports federations in European sport, the UEFA president expressed his delight at the entry into force of Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty (see *uefadirect* No. 94), a provision which, for the first time, enshrines in Community law the specific nature of sport.

At the end of the meeting, the UEFA president declared himself satisfied with his meeting with the commissioner and welcomed *"the opportunity to discuss with her the major issues affecting the future of European football,"* adding *"I am sure that our future cooperation will be very fruitful."*

"The European Commission welcomes financial fair play," said Androulla Vassiliou, describing UEFA as *"a privileged partner of the European Union."* She went on to note that: *"The European Commission and UEFA have worked together very closely to promote European sport and I am confident that we will continue to do so."*

The initial dialogue with the new European commissioner with responsibility for sport took place in a cordial, constructive atmosphere that was conducive to finding solutions. It augurs well for the future of football... and of Europe!



Spain won the European Futsal Championship in Hungary in spectacular fashion.

Sportsfile

→ Futsal EURO in Croatia

The regulations of the 2010/11 UEFA Women's Champions League and UEFA Futsal Cup were also approved. The Executive Committee decided to give further consideration to the format of the European Women's Championship final round, having increased the number of participants to 12 for the 2009 finals in Finland. In beach soccer, the committee welcomed FIFA's decision to appoint the Italian Football Federation as hosts of the 2011 World Cup.

In futsal, it decided to appoint the Croatian Football Federation as hosts to of the final round of the 2011/12 European Futsal Championship. The matches will therefore be played in Zagreb and Split. The committee also heard a report on this year's final round in Hungary, which was the first to involve 12 teams. Around 60,000 spectators attended the tournament's 20 matches, which provided a high level of entertainment and an average of 6.35 goals each, a record in the history of these tournaments.

IN BRIEF

■ A new version of the *UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations* was approved. The regulations will enter into force on 7 June.

■ Revised *UEFA Stadium Infrastructure Regulations* were also approved. The 2010 edition will come into force on 1 May. The new version divides stadiums into four categories (instead of three), with specific criteria for each of these categories.

■ Preparations for UEFA EURO 2012 remain a permanent feature on Executive Committee agendas. A progress report was presented in Tel Aviv, prior to a visit to Ukraine by a UEFA delegation, led by Michel Platini, on 7 and 8 April. The delegation visited the four host cities and met the new Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovych.

New contract with TEAM Marketing

Following the creation of the company UEFA Events SA, UEFA has entered a new era in marketing and event management and, in this context, the Executive Committee discussed its collaboration with TEAM Marketing AG, which has been a UEFA partner since the creation of the UEFA Champions League and whose current contract is due to expire in 2012.

On the recommendation of the UEFA Events SA board, the Executive Committee decided to continue working with TEAM and signed a new agreement in Tel Aviv on the marketing of rights for the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Super Cup for a three-year period (from 2012/13 until 2014/15), with the option of extending the agreement by three years if the new objectives are met.

UEFA has also sold its 20% shareholding in TEAM.



UEFA-Woods



UEFA's EUR 100,000 donation to the Red Cross was presented by Lionel Messi, who received more votes than anyone else in UEFA.com's Team of the Year 2009 poll.

Getty Images

■ The Executive Committee took note of the new organisational charts of the UEFA administration, headed by the general secretary Gianni Infantino, and of UEFA Events SA, led by David Taylor. It also noted the departure, at the end of March, of Philippe Le Floc'h, marketing director. Having joined UEFA in 2000, Philippe Le Floc'h has played a key role in the development and marketing of rights for the major UEFA competitions.



The International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) recently organised seminars for futsal coaches and referees in Budapest as part of its UEFA-backed futsal development project.

The seminars were attended by 30 coaches and 15 referees representing 11 organisations from 6 different countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia).



IBSA

The IBSA hopes that these seminars will enable the countries concerned to train national teams to take part in its competitions and thus increase the popularity of the sport.



Empics Sport

The needs of visiting fans were the heart of the seminar in Barcelona

Meeting with supporters' associations in Nyon

On 8 March, UEFA hosted representatives of two European supporter organisations at its Nyon headquarters.

Football Supporters Europe includes fan representatives from 18 European countries, while *Supporters Direct Europe* is a movement created in England with a view to helping clubs in difficulty.

The participants exchanged opinions on themes such as the organisation of the UEFA Champions League final, the fan hosting seminar held in Barcelona and standing areas in stadiums.

Having been represented at this meeting by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, and the first vice-president, Senes Erzik, the Executive Committee stressed once again in Tel Aviv the importance of dialogue with this essential part of the football family and the need for national associations to recognise supporter organisations.

Club competition semi-finals

For the first time since 2002/03, there are no English clubs in this year's UEFA Champions League semi-finals.

English clubs occupied three of the four semi-final places in each of the last three seasons, but Manchester United and Arsenal, the last remaining English sides, were beaten in this year's quarter-finals by FC Bayern München and holders FC Barcelona respectively. Olympique Lyonnais and FC Internazionale Milano are the other semi-finalists.

However, two English clubs have reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Europa League, where Atlético de Madrid play Liverpool FC and Hamburger SV, with the added incentive of playing the final in their own stadium, face Fulham FC.

In the UEFA Women's Champions League, FCR Duisburg played 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam and Umeå IK face Olympique Lyonnais in the semi-finals in April. The French team, eliminated in the round of 16 through a decision of the UEFA disciplinary bodies, won their appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport and were therefore allowed to play in the quarter-finals, where they beat Italian side ASD Torres Calcio.



Koepsel/Bongarts/Getty Images

David Jarolim (Hamburger SV) beats Axel Witsel (Standard de Liège) to the ball in the Europa League quarter-finals.

ARMENIA



New A coaching licence course

On 6 February, the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) launched an A-licence course, run by the FFA technical director, Flemming Serritslev, within the framework of UEFA's Jira project. The introductory session took place on 6 and 7 February, and the whole course is scheduled to finish in December this year. It includes a lot of theoretical and practical study and training, as well as study trips to one or two top European clubs to watch them training.

Armenia
Fitness exercises



According to new club licensing regulations, all head coaches and first assistants at Armenian premier league clubs will be required to have the A licence. All such officials are therefore taking the course.

FFA coaching instructors are also attending the course as auditors. The instructors have already obtained A licences through a previous course organised by the FFA and will monitor the participating coaches throughout the year.

On the first day of the course, on 6 February, the Argentinian fitness coach Rodrigo Roldan gave a lecture on physical preparation, covering the main theoretical elements and practical exercises.

The UEFA Jira project representative Erich Rutmöller (former head coach of 1. FC Köln) was also present at the introductory session, to acquaint himself with the course content, give lectures and make an initial assessment of the course. At the end of his visit, Mr Rutmöller gave excellent feedback on the work done. ■
Tigran Israelyan

the colours of the Azerbaijan flag, with the Azerbaijan crescent in the middle. At a glance you understand that Azerbaijan is a land of fire.

In addition, the AFFA has launched a second website – www.affavideo.az – which went online on 5 March. Highlights of matches of all the Azerbaijan national teams, plus images and shots from AFFA events, will be placed on this brand new site, as will interviews with AFFA officials, coaches and football players filmed by the association. It will also be possible to watch extracts of Azerbaijan premier league and cup matches and videos about the AFFA leagues, grassroots initiatives, infrastructure and education.

By creating this second website, the AFFA hopes to increase and strengthen the popularity of football in Azerbaijan. ■
Firuz Abdulla

AUSTRIA



Donation for Haiti

Within a few days of the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti, the Austrian national team donated a sum of EUR 20,000 to the relief effort being coordinated by Nachbar in Not (Neighbour in Need), following an initiative by two players, Christian Fuchs and Paul Scharner. Subsequently, the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) agreed to double the amount, meaning that, by the beginning of February, a total of EUR 40,000 had been pledged.

The official handover of the cheque took place during a press conference in Vienna in March. The ÖFB's chief executive, Alfred Ludwig, accompanied by Christian Fuchs and Paul Scharner, presented the cheque to Sissy Mayerhoffer, director for humanitarian broadcasting at Austrian TV network ORF and coordinator of the network's Neighbour in Need fundraising initiative, and Christoph Petrik-Schweifer, chairman of Neighbour in Need and head of foreign aid at Caritas.

Speaking on behalf of the national team, Paul Scharner and Christian Fuchs said: "It is an honour for us, as a team, to be able to contribute in a small way to help alleviate the problems. Countless Austrians, including many of our fellow footballers, have already donated. Of course, we hope that many of our

Austria
Presentation of the cheque for victims of the earthquake in Haiti



AZERBAIJAN



New logo and website

The ordinary congress of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), a very important event for the football family of Azerbaijan, took place on 5 March. One of the items approved by the meeting was the new AFFA logo, which takes the form of a traditional football turning into flames in

fellow citizens will continue to contribute over the coming weeks and months, irrespective of whether they are football fans. We realise that this amount is just the proverbial drop in the ocean, but we are also convinced that it is important and worthwhile to contribute to the relief effort."

Speaking on behalf of the ÖFB, Alfred Ludwig added: "We are delighted that our team has decided to take this stand, and it shows the real character of our players. The Austrian Football Association will gladly provide the organisational support required to see through this initiative and will double the amount donated to EUR 40,000 by contributing EUR 20,000 through our own Charity08 programme."

Sissy Mayerhoffer and Christoph Petrik-Schweifer said that many sports clubs had given their support to the cause, which was great, but the amount donated by the ÖFB was "truly exceptional". ■

Peter Klinglmüller

BELARUS



First Belarusian super cup

For the first time in the history of Belarusian football, the national cup winner and the winner of the national championship recently contested the Belarusian super cup.

The match between BATE Borisov and FC Naftan Novopolotsk took place in the football hall in Minsk on 8 March and marked the start of the new football season in Belarus.

Before the match, the fans gathered in the hall enjoyed a concert given by famous Belarusian singers and the president of the Football Federation of Belarus (BFF), Gennady Nevyglas, congratulated everyone on the start of the new season.

The score at the end of normal time was 0-0, so according to the regulations the winners had to be decided in a penalty shoot-out. Thanks to the outstanding performance of

BELGIUM



Fair play pays off

At the start of the 2009/10 season, the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA) launched the Lotto Fair-Play Cup, Belgium's first national fair play competition. Every youth team in the country – over 6,000 in total – is taking part, giving boys and girls from all age groups an opportunity to compete.

The purpose of the competition is to raise awareness among youngsters of the importance of fair play, by rewarding those teams who demonstrate the best conduct with gift vouchers that can be used to purchase sports equipment.

In total, there are nine regional competitions and one national competition. The regional and national rankings are based on fair play points, calculated on the basis of yellow and red cards shown and a score awarded by the referee at the end of each match. Only the teams with the highest overall scores in each competition will receive gift vouchers.

Each team starts a match with a potential 100 points. For every yellow card that they receive they lose five points, while each red card costs them ten. For example, if the referee awards a team a score of 90 out of

100, and the team has picked up two yellow cards (-10 points) and one red card (-10 points), its final score for that match is 70 out of 100.

Regional rankings are based on the number of points obtained by each team throughout the season and are updated every week. To qualify for the final rankings, a team must have received fair play points in at least 80% of the average number of matches played in the region and must have completed all of its league fixtures.

The final tables are established on the basis of average scores, so that teams who play fewer matches suffer no disadvantage. The winning teams will be the ones that achieve the best average score.

The total prize pot for the Lotto Fair-Play Cup is worth EUR 32,500. Each of the first-placed teams in the final standings will receive a EUR 1,500 gift voucher to redeem against sports equipment. This equipment is intended specifically for the team which has finished first in the final rankings, and not the club to which it is attached.

The prize pot is divided up as follows: the winning team will receive a voucher for EUR 1,500, the runners-up EUR 750, the third-placed



team EUR 500, fourth-placed EUR 450, and fifth-placed EUR 350.

Of course, it will be several months before we can evaluate the full impact of this initiative, but it is already clearly a success, given the high scores being achieved by many of the teams. ■

Pierre Cornez

the NFSBiH general meeting, which is to be held by 30 June. According to the current proposals, elections are then due to be held by 31 August at the latest.

One of the key changes proposed by FIFA and UEFA is the election of one president, instead of the current three-member presidency, in which the role of president rotates every 16 months.

The Asim Ferhatovic Hase and Grbavica stadiums, both in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, hosted the Group 2 European Under-17 Championship elite round mini-tournament ahead of the final tournament in Liechtenstein. First place went to the young players of Portugal, who defeated Croatia in the deciding match. Velimir Stojnic's squad put in a good performance and took third place with two points. After losing against Croatia (1-2), they surprised Portugal with a draw (1-1) and likewise held Romania to a draw (3-3). Reaching the elite round was a big success in itself for the young hopefuls of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Under-19 team have been playing friendly matches in preparation for their European championship elite round. First they hosted two matches against their Croatian peers in Medugorje (0-0, 1-3), then they travelled to Montenegro, where they lost 2-0 in Ulcinj but held their opponents to a 0-0 draw in Podgorica. For the elite round, Zoran Bubalo's team will play in Group 3 in Ukraine from 26 to 31 May. In addition to the hosts, they will compete with England and the Republic of Ireland for a place at this year's final tournament in France. ■

Fuad Kravac

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



Revised statutes

FIFA and UEFA representatives visited the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (NFSBiH) recently to present their proposals for the revision of the NFSBiH statutes.

During the three-day visit, they had discussions with the members of the regulations committee and the executive board, ending with a meeting with the three members of the NFSBiH presidency, Sulejman Colakovic, Iljo Dominkovic and Bogdan Ceko, the general secretary, Jasmin Bakovic, and the chairman and vice-chairmen of the regulations committee, Edin Kotlo, Zoran Lipovac and Zdenko Vidovic.

The regulations committee has been given the task, in cooperation with the NFSBiH presidency, of producing the final proposal for changes to the statutes, which will then be submitted to FIFA and UEFA.

It will also be submitted to the relevant bodies of the two entities, giving them an opportunity to express their views and make suggestions.

Once everyone is happy with it, the final proposal for changes to the statutes will be put to the executive board and then formally submitted for approval by

Belarus

BATE Borisov have won the first domestic super cup.



their goalkeeper, Sergey Veremko (who later received the player of the match award), BATE won their first title of the season.

The BFF also held its annual general meeting on 20 March, at which the executive committee reported on its activities in 2009. The report was presented by the president, Genady Nevyglas, in the presence of UEFA vice-president Joseph Mifsud.

Finally, at a ceremony held in Tel Aviv to coincide with the UEFA Congress, the BFF signed the UEFA Referee Convention, which is an important step in improving the level of refereeing in our country. ■

Yulia Zankovich



Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Under-17s



Cyprus
Great support for young Cypriot players



CYPRUS

A successful first half

Football in Cyprus is extremely popular. Measured per capita, enthusiasm for the sport in our country is the highest in Europe.

Based on research recently conducted by UEFA and discussed at a club licensing presentation here in Nicosia, an average of 3,000 tickets sold per game gives Cyprus the highest stadium attendance in Europe, when weighted to take account of population.

The first stage of our national championship has just finished. Twelve teams will now proceed to the second and final stage. The top four at the end of the first stage – AC Omónia, Anorthosis Famagusta, Apollon Limassol and Apoel – will each be giving their all to win the 2009/10 title.

The first phase of our grassroots championships has also come to an end and we now look forward to the national finals at the beginning of May. A total of 4,300 young children entered our grassroots championships, showing great enthusiasm and skills, and stars from the world of football have attended their matches almost every weekend, signing autographs and talking to the youngsters and parents, much to everyone's delight.

Finally, following the fixtures draw that took place after the UEFA Congress in Israel on 25 March, our national team is preparing to start its EURO 2012 qualifying campaign away against Portugal on 3 September, followed by a home game against Norway on 8 October and an away game against Denmark on 12 October.

Our national coach, Angelos Anastasiades, expressed his satisfaction after the draw, saying that the schedule was fair to all the teams in the group. ■

Kyriakos Giorgallis

by the FFF's training institute and supervised by the Red Cross.

An action plan has been set up, whereby all of the FFF's 295 referees will attend a 90-minute introductory course run by the French Red Cross, so that they are "able to provide the necessary first aid in an emergency", as Marc Batta, the federation's refereeing director, explained.

The 23 Ligue 1 referees led the way at their mid-season training course in Dinard, and by 31 July all the referees and assistant referees will have received first aid training. ■

Matthieu Brelle-Andrade

FRANCE



Saving lives

Who could forget that terrible moment when Marc-Vivien Foé collapsed on the ground after suffering a heart attack on 26 June 2003?

Although such tragic events are fortunately rare in view of the number of matches played in France each season (1 million), they have helped to raise awareness in football, and the French Football Federation (FFF) is keen that as many of its 2.6 million members as possible receive first aid training.

To this end, a national campaign, supported by the ministry for health and sport, has been launched for the 2009/10 season, with the aim of training

one coach, one player, one referee and one director from each club. The whole football family, amateurs and professionals alike, is committed to the success and promotion of this initiative (see www.foot-gestepourunevie.fr).

The French refereeing body is also involved in these courses, which are being organised



France
A first-aid demonstration

Czech Republic
The CMFS president, Ivan Hasek, and journalist Frantisek Steiner



CZECH REPUBLIC



A doyen in his prime

Frantisek Steiner, one of the Czech Republic's best and most well-known football journalists, was recently received by Ivan Hasek, president of the Football Association of the Czech Republic (CMFS), to mark his 85th birthday.

Ten years ago Mr Steiner received the association's highest accolade, the Vaclav Jirka prize, for his work with the newspaper *Lidova demokracie*.

He also worked for many years on the German sports magazine *Kicker* and wrote a chapter on amateur competitions in Europe

ITALY



Fan card initiative

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) has taken the initiative to launch the Vivo Azzurro, a fan card which will be available to supporters of the national team as of next season. The aim is not to compile data as such, but to create a loyalty mechanism, offering services and benefits. The FIGC trialled the system at the UEFA Champions League final in Rome last year, when it replaced traditional tickets with cards, which spectators could also use to visit museums and travel free on public transport on the days either side of the match.

On 19 March in Rome, a technical round table, set up by the Italian minister of the interior, Roberto Maroni, met to discuss a scheme to introduce a similar card for supporters of Serie A and B clubs next season. The meeting was aimed at clarifying all the practical aspects of the scheme, which – according to a directive issued by the minister of the interior last December – will be mandatory as of 2010/11.



Italy
The fan card prototype

Thanks to collaboration between the authorities and the world of sport, a five-point action plan has been drawn up, with the objective of facilitating the activities of sports clubs.

The first step is an information campaign to accompany the adoption of the fan card. This will emphasise the positive aspects of the system and reinforce supporters' natural attachment to their club colours, in line with schemes in other European countries.

The second point of the plan concerns the scheme's technical implementation. According to the Italian Observatory of Sports Events, the card should facilitate the purchase of tickets, entry to stadiums and use of club services (reward points, discounts, etc.). It will be possible to load ticket details onto the card and use it to access to any stadium in the country.

Any person already banned from attending sports events or convicted of a crime

for the official publication celebrating UEFA's 25th anniversary.

Even now, he remains active: in autumn last year, his remarkable book *Fotbal pod žltou hvězdou* (*Football under the Yellow Star*) was published. It describes the seven-a-side leagues, youth competitions, cup competitions and friendly matches that were organised in 1943/44 by the inmates, all of them Jews, of the Terezin concentration camp, about 100km from Prague.

As part of his research, Mr Steiner spent hundreds of hours trawling through archives and searched the world over for surviving players. The result is a fascinating book that shows how people facing death were determined to survive and longed to play football.

As well as documenting a lesser known chapter of the Holocaust and being a beautiful illustration of the perennial nature of football, Mr Steiner's latest work is another example of his own creative service to his beloved game. ■

Jaroslav Kolar

MALTA



Coaching insights

Coach education has always been an important tool to help technicians improve their knowledge of the game and better impart their coaching skills.

The technical centre of the Malta FA is the hub of Maltese coach education, providing practising and aspiring coaches with a proper platform on which to build, with courses of all kinds run all year round.

Recently, UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, was in Malta to give a talk on reading the game. This well-attended lecture, held in collaboration with UEFA, centred on how important it is for coaches to have a deep insight into the game.

Andy Roxburgh stressed the importance of reading the game and anticipating the course

committed in a stadium in the previous five years will be ineligible for a card.

For supporters joining the scheme, there will be no restrictions imposed by law enforcement agencies on the sale of tickets or on travel. However, clubs will have the right to cancel the card of a supporter who behaves unacceptably.

The final point of the action plan, already applied by several clubs, focuses on a process of dialogue with supporters and organised groups, treating them as clients and interlocutors. The aim of the dialogue is to find ways to facilitate access to events, make stadiums more fan-friendly and, if necessary, improve security arrangements.

At the end of its meeting, the working group decided that specific issues would be dealt with by technical subgroups, which would clear up final details needed to finalise the project. ■

Barbara Moschini



Liechtenstein

Frantisek Laurinec (centre), with the LFFV president, Reinhard Walser (to his left), and the LFFV executive committee members

general meeting went off without a hitch. Although the final accounts for 2009 showed a loss as a result of various sporting and social activities relating to the organisation's 75th anniversary, the LFFV remains in good financial health.

Looking forward, Reinhard Walser called on the delegates to come up with ideas of how to further develop football in their small country. He said that Liechtenstein should be targeting a place in the world's top 100 or qualification for the European Championship finals in the foreseeable future. This, he said, was something that everyone should work together to achieve, even if, at present, it seemed a fanciful dream! Frantisek Laurinec conveyed UEFA's best regards and wished the LFFV success for the future. He also expressed the hope that the European Under-17 Championship, due to take place in Liechtenstein in May 2010, would encourage more of the country's youngsters to channel their energies into football instead of computer games. ■

Anton Banzer

LIECHTENSTEIN



Reinhard Walser re-elected LFFV president

At the 2010 general meeting of the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFFV), the incumbent president, Reinhard Walser, was re-elected for a further two years. Two fellow LFFV board members, and the members of the referees and appeals committees, were also re-elected.

In the presence of UEFA Executive Committee member Frantisek Laurinec – standing in for German Football Association president Theo Zwanziger, the UEFA Executive Committee member responsible for Liechtenstein – the 2010

of the match, while going on to explain the need for the coach to understand, analyse and interpret situations on the field of play.

A discussion ensued among the Maltese coaches on counterattacking and the importance of a quick transition from defence to attack and vice versa.

Mr Roxburgh's excellent insight into the subject was very useful and much appreciated by his audience.

The lecture, held at the centenary hall of the Ta' Qali complex, was part of a series of events to mark the MFA's anniversary celebrations of 100 years of the national league and 50 years of full UEFA and FIFA membership. ■

Alex Vella

Malta

UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, addresses Malta's coaches



MOLDOVA



Workshop with regional associations

Delegates from Moldova's 32 regional football associations recently came together for a workshop with the Football Association of Moldova (FMF), represented by the general secretary, Nicolai Cebotari, the head of the administrative protocol department, Mircea Cojocari, the head of the referees committee, Veaceslav Caprovoi, and the two federal inspectors, Oleg Molceanov and Irina Tataru.

Moldova

The workshop with representatives of the regional associations



During the meeting, Nicolai Cebotari underlined the key role of the regional associations in football development in Moldova: "You must involve as many people as possible, of all different ages, in football. Regional associations must also organise championships, cup competitions and junior and youth competitions. From our side we can promise you technical or even financial assistance." The general secretary also informed the regional associations about the events that the FAM planned to organise in August to celebrate 100 years of Moldovan football and the 20th anniversary of the FMF.

Mircea Cojocari presented information about the new edition of the UEFA Regions' Cup and Veaceslav Caprovoi talked about the number of referees in each regional association. Finally, Oleg Molceanov announced that the UEFA Executive Committee had declared 19 May 2010 UEFA Grassroots Day and invited each regional association to organise special football activities that week.

The meeting was held in a relaxed atmosphere, giving all the regional delegates an opportunity to have their questions answered by the national representatives. ■

Press office



KNVB

Netherlands
Vera Pauw

NETHERLANDS



Vera Pauw steps down

Vera Pauw has stepped down from her position as head coach of the Dutch national women's team, having served the Dutch FA (KNVB) for six years in this capacity and achieved an unprecedented third place at the UEFA Women's EURO 2009 in Finland.

Pauw initially worked for the KNVB in various roles from 1986 until 1998. She then

took up a position at the Scottish Football Association as technical director of women's football and head coach of the Scottish national women's team, before returning to the KNVB offices in Zeist in 2004.

Ruud Bruijnjs, director of amateur football at the KNVB, said: *"We highly appreciate Vera Pauw's leading role in the development of women's football in recent years. Due to her commitment we have reached our current level. Women's football has been put on the map. For all women and girls in the Netherlands who want to play football, we will build on the solid foundations that Vera has laid for us."*

During her playing days, Pauw was the first Dutch woman to start a professional

career abroad, playing for Italian club CF Modena from 1988 to 1990. Between 1983 and 1998 she won 89 caps, most as captain, and in 2005 she became the first woman to receive a UEFA Pro coaching licence.

Pauw has been appointed to serve on several UEFA and FIFA committees due to her great knowledge of the game and women's football in particular. In 1994 she was appointed as a FIFA instructor and has given courses all over the world. Since 2003 she has been a member of the FIFA Technical and Development Committee, chaired when she joined by the current UEFA president, Michel Platini, and since 2007 she has also been a member of the UEFA Women's Committee. ■

Rob de Leede

NORTHERN IRELAND



William Murphy at centre of excellence

The County Antrim Norfolkline Centre of Excellence of the Irish Football Association (IFA) welcomed Linfield defender William Murphy to one of its recent training sessions at the University of Ulster at Jordans-town. Winkie, as he is more commonly known among fans, came to have a closer look at the latest line of talented youngsters being trained under the watchful eye of County Antrim performance coach Pascal Vaudequin.

Winkie was very impressed by the coaching structures in place at the centre of excellence and is in no doubt that this will lead to higher quality players rising through the ranks. *"To see the best young players in County Antrim coming together to train and receiving quality coaching at a first class facility is fantastic,"* he said. *"This isn't just about kicking a ball about for a couple of hours. These kids are learning more and more each week by playing in small-sided games under the guidance of highly qualified coaches, which is helping to develop their skills both on and off the ball. These*

kids have a great opportunity here to take their game to the next level, and from what I have seen here today, the future of football in Northern Ireland certainly looks good."

Performance coach Pascal Vaudequin is delighted with the development of the young players at the centre: *"It is great to have Winkie here tonight to see the many talented youngsters that we have at the County Antrim centre of excellence. Their enthusiasm for the game is unbelievable and they are really developing as players on the pitch and improving their lifestyles off it. None of this would be possible without fantastic support from Norfolkline and I would like to thank them on behalf of myself, the other coaches, and all the young players who help make this job so rewarding."*

The coaching team, led by Pascal, hold training sessions three days a week and currently have 132 boys and girls (Under-12 to Under-16) attending from various clubs and schools across County Antrim. The role of the centres of excellence is to support young players throughout the important early teenage years, with the aim of developing the best young players in the country. The coaches help and support the players not only with their football skills but also with their conditioning, diet and general lifestyle. The Norfolkline IFA centres of excellence are a vital strand of the Irish Football Association's youth strategy. ■

Graeme Beggs

Northern Ireland

William Murphy (second from left) visiting a centre of excellence



IFA

NORWAY



Norway
Yngve Hallén,
the new NFF
president

New president elected at congress

Yngve Hallén was elected president of the Football Association of Norway (NFF) at the congress held from 5 to 7 March in Lillestrøm. A new board was also elected. The new president is thankful for the trust placed in him: *"I've got the organisation's trust to do an important job for Norwegian football, so I'm excited and looking forward to starting my work."* Hallén's most recent position was as director of Sogndal Football Club, where he had been working for ten years. He initially trained as a teacher and has also worked in politics. The new board and president have been elected for a period of two years. For more details of the new board, visit our websites www.fotball.no and www.forbundstinget.no.

At the congress it was also decided that play-offs would no longer be held between the bottom team in the Norwegian Premier League and the top team in the Norwegian Championship. Previously such matches have

been held to decide which of the two gets to play in the top division the following season.

Changes have also been made at the fourth level in Norwegian football. For the 2011 season, the number of regional associations involved at this level will be cut from 24 to 12. The purpose of this is to increase skills and raise the level in the lower divisions and bring Norwegian football closer to the international benchmark. Both decisions were voted on by the regional associations and clubs present at the NFF congress. ■

Lene Forfang Paterson



NFF



Republic of Ireland

The minister for integration, John Curran (left), and the president of the FAI, David Blood, present an award to Corrib Rangers.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



Intercultural awards

The minister for integration, John Curran, visited the headquarters of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) recently to present awards to seven local clubs for excelling in an intercultural football standards grassroots pilot.

The grassroots pilot was designed as a quality mark scheme that encourages partnerships between local clubs and ethnic minority communities. The main aim is to promote greater connectivity between grassroots football and diverse local communities and to set out pathways into football for those interested in playing or volunteering.

The pilot, which was rolled out in 14 clubs and community groups/projects throughout

Ireland, builds on the many partnerships with both statutory and voluntary groups in the community who have an interest in promoting participation in sport among people from new and diverse ethnic communities.

Awards were presented to Willow Park FC (Athlone), Corrib Rangers (Galway City), Coole Park FC (Gort, Co Galway), St Francis FC (Dublin), Mulhuddart Community Football Club, Errigal College and Bonegee United (Letterkenny), and New Ross Celtic and RAPID Wexford.

The clubs worked in partnership with community groups in their area to deliver activities that encouraged participation at a variety of levels, including volunteering, coaching and playing. All clubs supported after-school club drop-in sessions for girls and boys, as well as a fun football open day at their clubs. Adult volunteers were encouraged and supported by groups and clubs such as Corrib Rangers, who provided mentoring for volunteers interested in helping out. ■

Fran Whearty

SCOTLAND



Scottish football sets path for golden future

The Scottish FA has announced two groundbreaking partnerships that will have a significant impact on the development of the game at grassroots level.

McDonald's is continuing to invest in the stars of tomorrow, having announced a new four-year deal to help raise standards and create more opportunities for children of all ages and abilities. And a historic joint National Player Pathway, conceived by the Scottish FA and the Scottish Youth FA, will enable young players across the country to follow the same gradual development plan.

The Scottish FA and the Scottish Youth FA will focus on three key areas that are crucial to the development of football in Scotland: the new National Player Pathway, league and club development, and coach and volunteer development.

All young people playing recreational football will follow the new National Player Pathway, which starts with small-sided games and grows with the child: 6 to 8-year-olds will play four-a-side games, 9 to 12-year-olds will play seven-a-side and from the age of 13 they will be 11-a-side.

Likewise, a renewed community partnership will see McDonald's extend its involvement in the Scottish FA Quality Mark accreditation scheme, which aims to raise standards within clubs. Quality Mark is designed to create a

San Marino

The first training session in Fiorentino



SAN MARINO



New youth training project

The San Marino Football Federation (FSGC) has launched a new training academy project, with the first practical session held on its Fiorentino pitch on 19 September last year.

Through this four-part project, a series of training sessions are being organised for the federation's best young footballers (for this season, those born in 1997 and 1998). The objective is to create a common identity for San Marino's young footballers and the next generation of national team players. The hope is that the young players will acquire certain moral and social values and learn to conduct themselves appropriately both on and off the pitch, in their dealings with officials and supporters. It is a matter of instilling in them the desire to become international footballers of the highest possible calibre.

The four parts of the project are as follows:

- work with the federation's young players;
- additional work between club coaches and support staff;
- collection of all relevant data in a database, for promotion via the FSGC website, magazines and the local media;
- organisation of meetings, professional training and refresher courses for coaches.

The staff comprises coaches Enrico Battisti and Claudio Bartoletti, who are responsible for technical and tactical training, Carlo Casadei, in charge of goalkeeper coaching, Francesco Berretta, expert in coordinated motor activity, and Emilio Cecchini, technical director of the project.

The technical coordinators, who will report back to the FSGC board, are Maurizio Montironi and Marco Guidi. ■

Emilio Cecchini

better standard of playing and coaching for the thousands of boys and girls across Scotland.

McDonald's will help to attract 13,000 new volunteers and 10,000 new coaches by 2014, as well as supporting 600 clubs and 52,000 players over the course of the deal, achieved through new and existing football networks.

Jim Fleeting, the Scottish FA's head of football development, Jim Dolan, Scottish Youth FA vice-president, and Scotland legend Kenny Dalglish (now McDonald's head of Scottish football), announced the exciting new ventures at Toryglen regional football centre in Glasgow. ■

Clare Bodel



Scotland

Ex-international Kenny Dalglish and some young Scottish players

Serbia
UEFA vice-president Marios Lefkaritis addresses
the general meeting of the Serbian FA.



www.uefa.com

SERBIA

Historic construction project

The Football Association of Serbia (FSS) held its annual general meeting on 31 March at the theatre in Stara Pazova, 35km from Belgrade. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the city, another chapter is being written in Serbian football history. The FSS is currently building a sports centre on an 11.5ha plot of land just a few hundred metres from this year's meeting venue. In future, this new centre, which is due to open at the end of the year, will host all annual general meetings and FSS football activities.

Before this year's meeting, all the delegates – led by the FSS president, Tomislav Karadzic – visited the construction site and

saw how far the project had already come. They were accompanied by a UEFA delegation, led by vice-president Marios Lefkaritis.

"It looks really impressive. For countries like Serbia, this is big project which will do a huge amount for everybody, including other sports, and will benefit the younger generation above all. I am proud that UEFA has contributed to the construction and we all look forward to seeing the impressive centre complete. The European football family is celebrating this with the Serbs," Mr Lefkaritis said.

Tomislav Karadzic added: *"Seven pitches, a hotel, a museum, a football hall and other facilities will be available for lots of children and all the national teams. We really need this house of football. Everything will be under*

one roof. We have undertaken this project in cooperation with UEFA and FIFA, and are delighted by their involvement."

At the annual meeting, the delegates were presented with a report on 2009 and the plan for 2010, the financial report and many technical matters. They also discussed the national teams' results – a cause of universal satisfaction. The A team has a place at the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the youth side have been successful on the European stage. One of the priorities for next year will be the success of the European Under-17 Championship finals, which will be held in Serbia.

Finally, the FSS has named the best coach and player of the last domestic football season. The honours went to Zoran Milinkovic, FK Spartak Zlatibor Voda coach, and Adem Ljajic, now AFC Fiorentina midfielder, who spent last season with FK Partizan.

For everything they have done for domestic football, the FSS honorary president, Miljan Miljanic, and honorary national head coach, Vujadin Boskov, also received golden pins, the most prestigious award given by the FSS. ■

Aleksandar Boskovic

SLOVENIA



Association celebrates 90th anniversary

The Football Association of Slovenia is holding an extraordinary congress on 24 April to mark its 90th anniversary. It has been guiding the development of Slovenian football since the 1920s, when the Ljubljana Football Association (LFA) was founded as part of the central Yugoslav Football Association, which was based in Zagreb. The LFA, which is considered a legitimate predecessor of the current FA of Slovenia, was established to coordinate and organise the ever increasing activities of Slovenia's clubs. At its first congress, the LFA elected Anton Jug as president.

Ninety years later, Slovenian football has come a long way. Arguably the biggest accomplishments of this small country are two FIFA World Cup qualifications (2002 and 2010) and a place at UEFA EURO 2000. But, although the

work of the Slovenian FA is often judged through the prism of its A team, the scope of its operations extends much further and wider than that.

Over the last couple of years, Slovenian football has undergone some major changes in order to keep up with the rapid growth of football in other countries. The two men previously at the head of the FA, who had run Slovenian football for the best part of the last two decades, decided it was time to make

space for fresh ideas and new concepts. Consequently, Ivan Simic was elected president in 2009 and just a few months ago Ales Zavrl took over as general secretary.

The congress in April will be just the start of the 90th anniversary celebrations, which will continue throughout the World Cup this summer and culminate in huge event for the entire football family in December. ■

Matjaz Krajnik

SWITZERLAND



Six coaches awarded UEFA Pro licence

The Swiss Football Association, long known for its outstanding coach education, recently awarded UEFA Pro licences to six of its coaches at a ceremony held at its headquarters in Berne.

In the presence of the Swiss FA president, Peter Gilliéron, and the general secretary, Alex Miescher, the following coaches received their

Pro licences: Urs Fischer, Pablo Iglesias, Vlado Nagic, Charles-Albert Rössli, Christian Zermatten and former national team goalkeeper Joël Corminboeuf.

All the new licence holders excelled themselves during the two-year course, demonstrating great commitment and expert knowledge in all theory modules and practical sessions. ■

Pierre Benoit



Switzerland

Joël Corminboeuf, former Swiss international goalkeeper, has received a Pro licence.

TURKEY



32,000 in action in Mini-Pitch League

The Nike Mini-Pitch League, organised by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) and Nike, is providing an opportunity for 32,000 people to get involved in a special football tournament.

A total of 4,000 teams will play on 86 mini-pitches in 59 centres. There will be two age groups, namely 15 to 19-year-olds and 20 to 35-year-olds, and all participants will receive TFF grassroots licences. The finals of this year's tournament will be held on 6 June. From the quarter-finals onwards, the teams still in the running will hold training camps under the guidance of TFF coaches. The winning teams will earn a year's free subscription to the mini-pitch where they started the tournament, as well as various items from the Nike football collection. ■

Altug Soyutuna

WALES



Stadium arts project

Members of the Welsh squad and staff were delighted to take part in an arts project ahead of the Wales v Sweden friendly in Swansea at the beginning of March.

The players were painted by pupils from Heronsbridge Special School in Bridgend, with the help of Jon and Sally Phillips from Pippin's Designs, which specialises in such work. Their earlier paintings have already been seen at the Millennium and Liberty Stadiums, and this project saw them work on images from the Wales v Scotland game featuring Gareth Bale, Simon Church, Ched Evans and Aaron Ramsey. They also painted individual images of Ashley Williams, Joe Allen, John Toshack and Dean

Saunders, and a group action shot of the Swedish team.

The pupils came to the Liberty Stadium on St David's Day, when they met the players, spent the day with the team and watched them training.

The Football Association of Wales thanks everyone for their hard work and looks forward to working with Jon and Sally again in the near future. For more information on their work, visit www.pippinsdesigns.co.uk. ■

Ceri Stennett

Wales
John Toshack
in front of
his portrait



Communications

Birthdays – Calendar

Birthdays

Two technical instructors celebrate their 70th birthdays in May: Andreas Morisbak (Norway), on 19 May, and Zdenek Sivek (Czech Republic), on 28 May. Semen Andreev (Russia), member of the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, reaches the same milestone on 25 May. On 1 May, Campbell Ogilvie (Scotland), member of the National Team Competitions Committee, turns 60. Technical instructor Anghel Iordanescu (Romania) follows suit on 4 May. Meanwhile, two referee observers reach the half-century mark this month: Peter Mikkelsen (Denmark), on 1 May, and Miroslav Tulinger (Czech Republic) on 8 May – as do technical instructor Packie Bonner (Republic of Ireland), on 24 May, and Evgeni Giner (Russia), member of the Club Competitions Committee, on 26 May.

UEFA also wishes many happy returns for the month of May to:

- Ladislav Gadosi (Slovakia, 3.5)
- Volodymyr Chorno-Ivanov (Ukraine, 3.5)
- Eleonora Gambillara (Switzerland, 4.5)
- Peter Gilliéron (Switzerland, 5.5)
- Costakis Koutsokoumnis (Cyprus, 5.5)
- Kenneth Ridder (England, 6.5)
- Gudmundur Petursson (Iceland, 6.5)
- Stanislav Strapek (Slovakia, 6.5)
- Karl-Erik Nilsson (Sweden, 6.5)
- Pekka Luhtanen (Finland, 8.5)
- Michel Pralong (Switzerland, 8.5)
- Marc Dobbela (Belgium, 8.5)
- Patrick Comninou (Greece, 8.5)
- Ucha Ugulava (Georgia, 8.5)
- Armen Melikbekyan (Armenia, 10.5)
- Ernst-Peter Radziwill (Germany, 11.5)
- Timo Huttunen (Finland, 11.5)
- Jean-Marie Gantenbein (Luxembourg, 11.5)
- Henrik Ravnild (Denmark, 13.5)
- Mattia Piffaretti (Switzerland, 13.5)
- Odile Lanceau (France, 14.5)
- Carlos Manuel Ferreira Matos (Portugal, 14.5)
- Hans-Jörg Eissmann (Germany, 15.5)
- Piotr Maranda (Poland, 15.5)
- Hakan Nyberg (Sweden, 15.5)
- Nikolay Levnikov (Russia, 15.5)
- Evzen Amler (Czech Republic, 15.5)
- Angel Bungurov (FYR Macedonia, 16.5)
- Lubos Michel (Slovakia, 16.5)
- Svein Johannessen (Norway, 17.5)
- Lars Appelqvist (Sweden, 18.5)
- Jozef Marko (Slovakia, 19.5)
- Gaetano De Gabriele (Malta, 19.5)
- Milovan Djukonovic (Montenegro, 19.5)
- Rune Pedersen (Norway, 19.5)
- Raimondas Statkevicius (Lithuania, 19.5)
- Michal Listkiewicz (Poland, 20.5)

- Serge Muhmenthaler (Switzerland, 20.5)
- Ivan Simic (Slovenia, 20.5)
- Miodrag Belodedici (Romania, 20.5)
- Ewa Gajewska (Poland, 21.5)
- Nicolai Cebotari (Moldova, 21.5)
- Theo van Seggelen (Netherlands, 22.5)
- Karl Dhont (Belgium, 22.5)
- Ainar Leppänen (Estonia, 24.5)
- Suheil Daood (Israel, 25.5)
- Hans Cooman (Belgium, 25.5)
- Ivancica Sudac (Croatia, 25.5)
- Barbara Strakova (Czech Republic, 26.5)
- Robert Jeurissen (Belgium, 27.5)
- Patrick A. Daly (Republic of Ireland, 28.5)
- Jim Stjerne Hansen (Denmark, 28.5)
- Jean-Pierre Escalettes (France, 29.5)
- Jacques Antenen (Switzerland, 29.5)
- Arnaldo Cunha (Portugal, 31.5)

Forthcoming events

Meetings

- 4.5.2010, Nyon**
HatTrick Committee
- 4/5.5.2010, Nyon**
Talents and mentors course
- 5.5.2010, Nyon**
National Associations Committee
- 6/7.5.2010, Nyon**
Course for women referees
- 12.5.2010, Hamburg**
Football Committee
- 19.5.2010, Madrid**
Grassroots Day
- 26.5.2010, Nyon**
National Team Competitions Committee
Grassroots Panel
- 27.5.2010, Nyon**
Executive Committee
- 28.5.2010, Geneva**
Executive Committee
Announcement of UEFA EURO 2016 hosts

Competitions

- 12.5.2010, Hamburg**
UEFA Europa League final
- 18-30.5.2010, Liechtenstein**
European Under-17 Championship
final round
- 20.5.2010, Madrid**
UEFA Women's Champions League final
- 22.5.2010, Madrid**
UEFA Champions League final
- 24.5-5.6.2010, FYR Macedonia**
European Women's Under-19 Championship
final round

Notices

- On 7 March, Yngve Hallén was elected president of the Football Association of Norway.
- On 9 March, Armand Duka was re-elected president of the Football Association of Albania.

New publications

Le foot en 7 langues

Following in the footsteps of Langenscheidt and its football dictionary, published in cooperation with UEFA, Alexandre Dellal and a team of six co-authors, all specialists – like him – in fitness coaching, have produced their own tool for anyone seeking to make themselves understood in the increasingly multi-lingual world of football.



It is aimed primarily at French-speakers, with the entries listed in French alphabetical order and translations provided in English, Spanish, Italian, German, Arabic and Chinese. It also contains anatomical and physiological charts, with the name of each muscle, bone and ligament given in the five European languages covered (*éditions De Boeck, Brussels – www.deboeck.com*).

Coupe du monde 2010 – Afrique du Sud

With under two months to go until the World Cup finals kick off in South Africa, statistician Daniel Masnari has published a book on the tournament, the participants and the South African host cities and stadiums, including special emphasis on the Swiss national team and a section on the qualifying competition. It also features statistics on the previous World Cups from 1930 to 2006, with a list of the 4,853 players – including 2,030 strikers – who have represented 78 countries, as well as the 311 coaches, the 327 referees and details of the 708 matches (*DM Foot Editions, 1036 Sullens, Switzerland – danielmasnari@bluewin.ch*).



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