



Brussels, 9.6.2022  
C(2022) 3721 final

ANNEX

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**Commission Decision**

**adopting the Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the  
Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)**

## ANNEX

### **Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BASIS FOR COOPERATION**

- 1.1. The European Commission (“EC”) and the Union of European Football Associations (“UEFA”), (together “the Sides”) share a common desire to promote and strengthen a ‘European Sport Model’<sup>1</sup> based on values, such as solidarity between different levels in sport, in particular between professional and grassroots sport, fairness, integrity, openness, gender equality and good governance in sport, and football in particular.**
- 1.2. The first Arrangement for Cooperation<sup>2</sup>, concluded in 2014, helped to strengthen relations between the EC and UEFA based on cooperation concerning European priorities and in key policy areas. That Arrangement was renewed and extended on 21 February 2018<sup>3</sup> covering the period up to the end of 2020 to consolidate and strengthen EC-UEFA cooperation and to focus in particular on the importance of collaboration on the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship. With the event postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the duration of this Arrangement was extended on 9 February 2021<sup>4</sup> to last until the end of 2021. The Sides wish therefore to sign this new Arrangement for cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the “Arrangement”).**
- 1.3. The Sides wish to strengthen their partnership built over decades of cooperation to support and promote European values as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union<sup>5</sup> and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union<sup>6</sup>, focusing on Europe’s greatest challenges, and EU’s strategic objectives, with a focus on sport and other specific areas which are of mutual interest and relevance.**
- 1.4. The Sides consider that the basis for their cooperation is the understanding that the Arrangement for Cooperation seeks to achieve its objectives in accordance with the Treaties and applicable Union legislation.**

#### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The overall objectives shared by the Sides are to:

- (a) support and promote EU values through the power of football;

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<sup>1</sup> The features of a European Sport Mode are discussed in the Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the key features of a European Sport Model, 30/11/2021 (2021/C 501/01)

<sup>2</sup> Commission Decision of 14.10.2014 adopting the Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), C(2014) 7378 final

<sup>3</sup> Commission Decision of 19.2.2018 adopting the Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), C(2018) 876 final

<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision of 9.2.2021 extending the duration of the Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), C(2021) 727 final

<sup>5</sup> These values are respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391

- (b) protect and strengthen the key features of a European Sport Model, based on European values, solidarity between elite and grassroots levels, sporting merit, an open system of promotion and relegation and the protection of the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen;
- (c) promote key EU priorities such as climate action, equality for all and social inclusion.

### 3. AREAS OF COOPERATION

#### 3.1. Promoting and protecting EU values and fundamental rights

- 3.1.1 The Sides wish to promote and protect fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union<sup>7</sup>, and as expressed, with respect to UEFA, in the UEFA Human Rights Commitment<sup>8</sup>, in order to tackle all forms of discrimination both on and off the field.
- 3.1.2 Sport plays a significant role in the promotion of human rights in our societies. Owing, among others, to its principles of respect and fair play, football has the potential of uniting people across borders and bridging social, cultural, and economic divides. The Sides recognise the importance of ensuring higher standards of respect of human rights in all countries designated as hosts of important European and international competitions, to which end proportionate means and good practices should be identified.
- 3.1.3 The Sides aspire for dignity, respect and equal rights and opportunities to be afforded to everyone involved in football in a spirit of freedom and justice, engaging society and governments on key topics and providing information and education.
- 3.1.4. All forms and manifestations of hatred are incompatible with the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty. The Sides therefore commit to fight all forms of hate speech in sport and football in particular, in line with the Commission's initiative to include hate speech and hate crime in the list of EU crimes<sup>9</sup> and the and the UEFA Equal Game campaign<sup>10</sup>.

#### 3.2 Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion, fighting all forms of discrimination

- 3.2.1 The Sides are committed to building a Europe of inclusion and equality, free of discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation<sup>11</sup>.
- 3.2.2 Within the strategic frameworks and action plans of the EU's Union of Equality<sup>12</sup> and UEFA's Football Sustainability Strategy 2030<sup>13</sup>, the Sides are committed to stepping up joint efforts towards meeting the objectives of the EU's Union of Equality.
- 3.2.3 In line with the priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme, the Sides reaffirm the positive role of sport, and football in particular, in promoting equality,

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<sup>7</sup> OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391

<sup>8</sup> UEFA Human Rights Commitment, December 2021

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/1\\_1\\_178542\\_comm\\_eu\\_crimes\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/1_1_178542_comm_eu_crimes_en.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/news/026b-12b0b4d59773-f10b54560843-1000--equal-game-all-you-need-to-know/>

<sup>11</sup> Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Art. 21.

<sup>12</sup> Communications adopted under the Union of Equality: Gender equality strategy 2020-2025 COM(2020)152, EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025 COM(2020)656, EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation COM(2020)620, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 COM(2020)698, Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 COM(2021)101.

<sup>13</sup> Strength Through Unity', UEFA Football Sustainability Strategy 2030, December 2021

diversity, and inclusion and underline the key role football plays in fighting all forms of discrimination.

- 3.2.4 Football plays a crucial role in countering stereotypes, supporting social inclusion and integration amongst communities and people across Europe, building bridges and bringing people together both through football events and participation in football activities. Cooperation under this arrangement should seek to harness this positive capacity to foster inclusion in line with EU objectives and strategies such as the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 and UEFA's Football Sustainability Strategy 2030. This would include building on successful past initiatives, ongoing joint cooperation on helping refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people to remain physically and mentally healthy and become part of their host community through the power of football.
- 3.2.5 Across this area, the Sides intend to build on UEFA's initiatives such as the UEFA Respect, No to Racism, #EqualGame and Together #WePlayStrong campaigns as well as the Football and Refugees grants scheme and UNITY project.
- 3.2.6 The Sides are aware of the importance of sport, and football in particular, in the prevention of and fight against racism and antisemitism in Europe<sup>14 15</sup>.
- 3.2.7 The Sides intend to enhance the fight against discrimination of the LGBTIQ community and individuals in sport and football, which often leads to exclusion, by making sport at all levels more inclusive for the LGBTIQ<sup>16</sup>.
- 3.2.8 The Sides recognise the right of persons with disabilities to participate in sporting activities on an equal basis with others set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). They intend to promote and strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities in football.

### **3.3 Supporting climate action and the green transition**

- 3.3.1 Both Sides note that the climate crisis is one of the most pressing challenges of our era and intend to use their respective strengths and networks to address this.
- 3.3.2 Cooperation under this Arrangement should aim at contributing to the EU's goal of becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. UEFA's European Climate Pact pledge<sup>17</sup> and the UEFA Environmental Commitment<sup>18</sup> also pursue that objective.
- 3.3.3 Among the main areas of cooperation would be to use football's global reach to raise awareness of the climate emergency through communication actions

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<sup>14</sup> In line with the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030_en)

<sup>15</sup> EU Member States reiterated their determination to combat racism and antisemitism and committed to adopt national action plans on racism and national strategies on antisemitism by end 2022, in line with the Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism on 4 March 2022.

<sup>16</sup> LGBTIQ-identified youngsters are twice as likely to be bullied and/or physically assaulted. See <https://uefafoundation.org/action/play-proud/>.

<sup>17</sup> UEFA Pledges Support to European Climate Pact Pledge, 16 December 2020

<sup>18</sup> UEFA Environmental Commitment, 16 December 2021

aimed at raising awareness on common goals related to the European Green Deal<sup>19</sup> and inspiring people to take action to save the planet.

- 3.3.4 Particular relevance is intended to be given to the topics of sustainable mobility and circular economy, where the Sides are convinced that football can play a role in promoting awareness and behaviour change towards EU sustainability goals, in line with the roadmaps set by the EU's Circular Economy Package, Sustainable Mobility Strategy<sup>20</sup> and UEFA's overarching Football Sustainability Strategy 2030.
- 3.3.5 The Sides intend to highlight the sustainability dimension of large sporting events and to cooperate on the delivery of EURO 2024 in Germany as a flagship for the sustainability of such sporting events.

### **3.4 Championing healthy and active lifestyles for all**

- 3.4.1 The Sides reiterate their strong commitment to promoting healthy and active lifestyles across generations and social groups and further commit to leveraging the power of football in encouraging healthy and active lifestyles.
- 3.4.2 Cooperation to boost physical activity should build strongly on the long-term partnership of UEFA to the European Week of Sport and the UEFA Grassroots Week as well as the UEFA Eat Well Play Well / Coaches for Health campaign launched as part of the EC's HealthyLifestyles4All initiative. Other existing initiatives such as #BeActive campaign may be used as sources of inspiration for the Sides to investigate the possibility of carrying out joint social media campaign on different topics of mutual interest and in line with shared values.
- 3.4.3 Efforts should be increased to safeguard health and well-being through football activities across all age groups and through awareness-raising activities around non-communicable diseases, including with respect to supporting the goals of Europe's Beating Cancer Action Plan<sup>21</sup>.
- 3.4.4 Specific focus is intended to be given to examining ways to launch joint efforts to promote a lifelong perspective by reaching youth, for example through UEFA's Football in Schools<sup>22</sup> programme, and by supporting active ageing, for example through promoting football for older people including activities such as Walking Football.
- 3.4.5 The Sides intend to promote the upgrade of existing sports infrastructure and the development of new, innovative, accessible and sustainable sports facilities across Europe as a means to promote public health.

### **3.5 Prioritising youth and engagement in the future of Europe**

- 3.5.1 Welcoming the designation of 2022 as the European Year of Youth<sup>23</sup> and recognising the importance of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/delivering-european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/delivering-european-green-deal_en)

<sup>20</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe, COM/2020/98 final

<sup>21</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, COM(2021) 44 final

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.uefa.com/news/026d-135dc20579e2-7809b9c8206a-1000--football-in-schools-three-success-stories>

<sup>23</sup> OJ L 462, 28.12.2021, p. 1

and the EU Youth Strategy the Sides aim at seeking to further harness the unique power of football to support youth education and training, social development, life skills and values.

- 3.5.2 The Sides plan to work together with relevant partners and stakeholders focussing on promoting social integration and inclusion of youth, in particular disadvantaged youth, involving the UEFA Foundation for Children in relevant activities and seeking to leverage where appropriate UEFA's events, UEFA ambassadors and in particular UEFA's youth competitions.
- 3.5.3 The Sides underline the fundamental and urgent importance of strengthening the protection of children in sport and ensuring the safe participation of young people, at all levels of football. Cooperation on safeguarding children and young people should be intensified, building on existing projects and initiatives and working with key stakeholders and partners including the Council of Europe, towards preventing and responding to any form of harm.
- 3.5.4 Recognising the call for sport organisations to support the Conference on the Future of Europe and help encourage positive civic and democratic engagement across Europe, in particular with and from youth, the Sides intend to further cooperate with UEFA national football associations to promote the activities and conclusions reached by the Conference on the Future of Europe<sup>25</sup> among EU citizens and beyond.
- 3.5.5 The Sides share the goal of promoting volunteering to contribute to active citizenship and to facilitate the integration of citizens from diverse backgrounds. UEFA intends to exploit opportunities and create partnerships, for volunteer engagement via the European Solidarity Corps in the context of their events.

### **3.6 Protect and strengthen the key features of a European Sport Model**

- 3.6.1 The Sides recognise the importance of the key features of a European Sport Model. These features include autonomy of sport governing structures, which is conditioned on good governance, pyramidal structure, solidarity and interdependence between elite and grassroots sport, open system of promotion and relegation, the grassroots approach and solidarity, role in national identity, structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.
- 3.6.2 The Sides emphasise the social, cultural and societal importance of European football and express their resolute commitment to further developing the values and solidarity in European football in the interest of all and to promoting open competitions based on sporting merit.
- 3.6.3 The continued positive and ambitious development of women's football, as foreseen in the UEFA Women's Football Strategy 'Time for Action'<sup>26</sup> and in line with the spirit of the EU Gender Equality Strategy, is fundamental in European football. The Sides intend to cooperate wherever relevant to promote accessibility, opportunities, excellence and safety for women and girls in

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<sup>24</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee_en)

<sup>25</sup> <https://futureu.europa.eu/?locale=en>

<sup>26</sup> 'Time for Action: UEFA Women's Football Strategy 2019–24', 17 May 2019

football, including among coaches and leadership positions in sports organisations and sport clubs.

- 3.6.4 Good governance is a necessary condition for the autonomy and self-regulation of sport within the European Sport Model. The Sides aim at continuing to promote principles of good governance in sport, such as accountability, democracy, inclusivity, integrity, participation and transparency, whilst also sharing an ambition to further develop these principles in ensuring gender equality and representativeness. In this context, focus should partly be on concrete measures towards organisational diversity and inclusion, in particular to address low numbers of women and persons with a minority racial or ethnic background within leadership positions in sport.
- 3.6.5 The Sides intend to continue working together to promote a healthy regulatory framework for the long-term development of football, including policies to increase financial sustainability, transparency, stability and responsible management.
- 3.6.6 The Sides re-affirm the centrality of financial solidarity mechanisms, helping to establish and reinforce the necessary link between professional and amateur sport, to foster and maintain the competitive balance between clubs and to encourage the training of young players.
- 3.6.7 Greater awareness of the functioning of solidarity schemes, redistribution mechanisms and the interrelated needs and interests of all in the ecosystem is expected to be fostered, with a view to increasing multi-stakeholder dialogue towards strengthening relevant frameworks.
- 3.6.8 The Sides recognise the value of cooperation among all major European football stakeholders and call on national associations, clubs, leagues, players, fans and agents to continue working together in mutual respect and cooperation based on shared values and objectives. The Sides promote the effective involvement of all stakeholders and a transparent and inclusive decision making process as part of the European Sport Model.
- 3.6.9 The Sides acknowledge the enormous impact COVID-19 has had on the sport sector and sport organisations, from grassroots to professional level. It is important to consider the needs of professional and grassroots sport organisations based on the European Sport Model and to encourage sport and physical activity as key tools of an inclusive recovery and more resilient society. The Sides intend to explore the best possible way to strengthen the sustainable financing of sport in the future.

#### **4. UEFA EVENTS INCLUDING MEN’S UEFA EURO 2024 & WOMEN’S UEFA EURO 2025**

- 4.1 UEFA’s pan-European events have the potential to portray a positive image of Europe and its common values, whilst at the same time celebrating its cultural diversity. These events bring European people together, in an atmosphere of optimism and solidarity.
- 4.2 The Sides believe strongly in the huge reach and positive power of UEFA events as moments and platforms for communicating and raising awareness for European public interest, social and societal objectives and priorities. The Sides wish to



cooperate more closely in ensuring this capacity for positive change is aligned with common European values, societal priorities and shared objectives.

- 4.3 Joint efforts in this regard should be intensified across relevant UEFA events and competitions, and in particular for the flagship men's and women's UEFA European Championships including for example with a strategic focus on the EU Green Deal and EU climate and sustainability objectives at EURO 2024 in Germany.
- 4.4 The Sides recognise the importance of ensuring the positive legacy of UEFA events in terms of sustainable and accessible sport infrastructures capable of contributing to social cohesion, inclusion, rural and urban development, also in line with the principles of the New European Bauhaus<sup>27</sup>.

## **5. MEANS OF COOPERATION**

- 5.1 In order to promote cooperation and further the shared objectives mentioned in Section 3, the Sides intend to:
- (a) identify and participate in joint events, projects, programmes and other initiatives;
  - (b) facilitate regular dialogue, coordination and cooperation with relevant bodies and authorities, in particular, at European level;
  - (c) exchange information, knowledge and best practice.

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<sup>27</sup> [https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/about/about-initiative\\_en](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/about/about-initiative_en)

## **6. WORKING METHODS**

- 6.1 Each Side designates a primary contact person for general matters pertaining to the implementation of this Arrangement.
- 6.2 The Sides intend to hold regular ad-hoc meetings to deal with the technical and operational issues related to the Arrangement.
- 6.3 Ad hoc meetings may be held between officials of the Sides on other practical matters.
- 6.4 The Sides aim at holding leadership level meetings between the UEFA President and the Commissioner in charge of sport and relevant members of the College of Commissioners as well as between UEFA senior management and relevant EC senior management.
- 6.5 UEFA ambassadors, including former players, coaches and officials, could participate where relevant as ambassadors for joint activities, including for example the European Week of Sport and EU policy thematic conferences.
- 6.6 The Sides intend to endeavour to further develop their cooperation as appropriate.

## **7. FINAL AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 This Arrangement will start on the date it is signed by both Sides and will continue through both the UEFA Men's EURO 2024 and UEFA Women's EURO 2025 until 31 December 2025.
- 7.2 The Sides are free to amend this Arrangement in writing.
- 7.3 Either Side can discontinue this Arrangement at any time.
- 7.4 This Arrangement does not create rights or obligations under international, Union or national law.

Signed in Brussels on [day] [month] 2022 in two original copies in the English language.

*For UEFA  
The President*

*For the European Commission  
Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*