



MEMBER INFORMATION

February 2008

UEFA meets with betting industry to advance monitoring activities

Ways discussed of strengthening Memorandum of Understanding between UEFA and the betting industry

UEFA President, Michel Platini, today chaired an informal meeting between European football's governing body and the key representatives of the European betting industry, notably the European State Lotteries (EL and EFP), Belfair, the European Sports Security Association (ESSA) and Verband Europäischer Wettunternehmer (VeWu).

During the meeting, an honest and fruitful exchange of opinions was held on the situation regarding betting and football matches, as well as on how the existing early-warning system can be further improved. With the current early-warning system, UEFA is able to request information from the various betting bodies, which identifies individuals behind any activity which has raised suspicion that corruption may have taken place.

UEFA acknowledges the importance of working with gambling associations in monitoring gambling activities on its football matches. Back in 2005, UEFA signed Memorandums of Understanding with bookmakers and gambling associations, including the European State Lotteries, Belfair and the European Sports Security Association.

UEFA President, Michel Platini, commented after the meeting:

"As a responsible governing body, UEFA is continuously monitoring football betting patterns, and it is clear that we will take the necessary actions in any cases where that may be justified. The efficiency of a control system is expressed by the number of irregularities found. Our system works very well, and this is a clear message to individuals involved in these illegal practices that we are determined to root out any forms of corruption, or betting anomalies, that may distort the outcome of our matches. Today's meeting was all about exchanging further ideas and information with the European betting industry in an open and positive way, so that we may find ways of improving our already stringent early-warning system, and therefore protecting the game from any potential illegal betting activities. We have agreed to continue to work closely together in this field."

Speaking after the meeting, State Lotteries Representative Jens Nielsen from Danske Spil, Denmark, said:

"We are happy to have worked with UEFA for the past three years, and who we think take this matter very seriously. We are more than happy to assist them, and in fact we have a responsibility to assist in the fight against illegal activities. We can offer figures and information into bets, and we are open in the future to an even closer co-operation with UEFA on this issue."

Source:

UEFA Media Services, Nyon, Switzerland: +41 848 04 27 27, media@uefa.ch

Contact:

Thomas Büchler-De la Cruz, EFP Secretary General, info@intertoto-cup.org;