



Declaration of Intent

Between

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

and

**THE UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS EUROPEENNES DE
FOOTBALL
(UEFA)**

Athens, 25 February 2020

Declaration of Intent

BETWEEN:

The Hellenic Republic, as duly represented by Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister (hereinafter cited as “HR”);

and

The Union des Associations Européennes de Football, as duly represented by Aleksander Čeferin, President (hereinafter cited as “UEFA”).

The above-mentioned parties shall be jointly referred to herein as the “Parties” and individually as a “Party”

WHEREAS:

- (A) UEFA is the governing body for football at European level with a membership of 55 national football associations in Europe, in accordance with UEFA statutes.
- (B) UEFA and HR have a common commitment to the healthy development of football and to safeguard sporting values in Greece.
- (C) The Parties declare their common will to work in order to launch rational and sustainable solutions to existing problems and deficiencies regarding Greek professional football.
- (D) UEFA and HR wish to sign the present Declaration of Intent for the purpose of facilitating co-operation on matters of common interest – the development of Greek Football through the relevant national association, i.e. the Hellenic Football Federation (hereinafter cited as “HFF” – in a constructive manner;
- (E) UEFA and HR wish to establish an appropriate framework to provide the HFF with assistance and support the efforts of HFF in the implementation of its statutory objectives and all its activities.
- (F) UEFA and HR wish to foster cooperation and dialogue for the purpose of solving a deep and concerning crisis in Greek professional football, and for the purpose of building a strong legacy with sporting, social and educational benefits.
- (G) UEFA has the expert knowledge and capacity to implement the tasks assigned by the present Declaration of Intent.
- (H) Without prejudice to sovereign rights of the State, the HR declares respect to the self-governance of professional football and the autonomy of football

organisations. At the same time, HR declares its will to fully enforce rules concerning Greek professional football through the imposition of proportionate sanctions when there is a breach of national laws, without prejudice to the competence of the relevant HFF bodies as far as sporting sanctions are concerned.

- (I) In the context of the implementation of the present Declaration of Intent UEFA will be collaborating with the Hellenic Football Federation (hereinafter cited as "HFF").
- (J) The present Declaration of Intent signed between UEFA and HR cannot not be construed as a precedent and is warranted by the specificities of the Greek case. It doesn't contradict nor challenge the article 7bis (2) of the UEFA Statutes (Extract: *Members associations shall manage their affairs independently and with no undue influence from third parties*).

IN RETURN FOR VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, THE SUFFICIENCY OF WHICH IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. BASIS OF COOPERATION:

The parties recognise that:

- football is beneficial for the physical and mental health of both children and adults;
- football promotes fundamental educational and cultural values, such as fair play, team spirit, self-control and respect for others;
- football contributes to cohesion, integration and participation in society;
- football shall foster peace and contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding;
- football has positive educational qualities that are important not only for the development of sport but also for the development of citizens;
- football can significantly contribute to local development and the economy as a whole;
- HFF has a responsibility to bring together and represent the overall interests of football in a spirit of progress and good faith;

- the principle of solidarity is a key element necessary for the healthy and balanced development of football;
- standards and principles of good governance and ethical standards should be promoted and protected and underpinned by democratic and transparent structures;
- sporting values should always prevail over commercial interests;
- HFF should be autonomous and free from any form of undue political interference;
- national team football provides substantial benefits to players, clubs, leagues and associations;
- revenue generated by football should be redistributed in accordance with the principle of solidarity and should be reinvested in favour of all levels and areas of football, especially the grassroots of the game;
- strong national championship as well as international competitions organised by UEFA are vital for the on-going and healthy development of football;
- all methods and practices which might jeopardise the regularity of matches or competitions or give rise to the abuse of football should be prevented;
- the training and education of players, coaches, referees and football administrators is essential for the sustainable development of football;
- there is a need to preserve the values of football, in particular, to protect its integrity and to combat the threat of racism, doping, violence, match-fixing and corruption;
- sports related disputes should be resolved within appropriate sports and dispute resolution structures.

2. UNDERTAKINGS BY UEFA

UEFA will produce within three (3) months from signing of this Declaration of Intent, a holistic study for the improvement and upgrade of Greek professional football.

The study will involve specific tailor-made proposals, based on international good practices, including, indicatively:

- the structure and organisation of the governing bodies of Greek professional football;
- the integrity of the game (to combat the threat of match-fixing; corruption and doping) in Greek professional football
- the effective treatment of defamatory statements and all kind of violence and discrimination in Greek professional football
- the refereeing system

UEFA will exercise reasonable endeavours to secure that such proposals will be enhanced by the HFF through the latter's provided institutional means.

UEFA will use its qualified staff, or any other independent experts deemed necessary to perform the tasks hereof.

3. UNDERTAKINGS BY HR

The HR will provide all necessary political back up to proposals set forth in the context of the preceding Article ("UNDERTAKINGS BY UEFA") timely and in all possible ways, especially by:

- reasonably introducing relevant proposals to the domestic legal order;
- securing necessary national licenses, authorisations, consents;
- concluding relevant access processes;
- providing UEFA with existing studies, statistics and other relevant data that are necessary for the latter parts to implement the tasks stemming hereof, without prejudice to rules concerning the protection of personal data or any other statutory or contractual restriction on the part of the HR;
- allowing the UEFA qualified staff and/or any other independent expert acting on UEFA's behalf to provide their services in the best possible way and thus use the best effort to guarantee their ideal working conditions (i.e. to support and protect them by all legal means in case of threats, intimidations or defamatory statements made against them by third parties).

4. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS AND DURATION

- 4.1. This Declaration of Intent shall enter into force on the date it is validly signed by both Parties;
- 4.2. Amendments to this Declaration of Intent shall be agreed by both Parties and shall be in writing;
- 4.3. The present Declaration of Intent is valid for a period of six (6) months from date of signature, unless the Parties agree that the envisaged tasks have been fully performed prior to this date. In due time prior to the end of the term, the Parties may decide on an extension;
- 4.4. Either UEFA or HR may, at any time, notify the other of its decision to discontinue this Declaration of Intent, but should endeavor to provide a two-month notice of such discontinuation.

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 5.1. This Declaration of Intent does not create rights or obligations under international or domestic law;
- 5.2. No party will be liable for any damages, or lost profits, loss of business opportunity or similar damages under this Declaration of Intent.
- 5.3. Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in relation to this Declaration of Intent shall exclusively be settled by the Parties through good faith negotiations.
- 5.4. Any material or documentation that each Party will hand in to the other Party shall be treated in absolute confidence, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. After expiry of the Declaration of Intent the parties are obliged to return without undue delay all relevant information and documentation to the other party.
- 5.5. The present Declaration of Intent does not impede in any way UEFA from performing its duties and rights as governing body of football at European level or from implementing commitments that have been assumed in the contexts of its competences.
- 5.6. This agreement may be executed in two (2) counterparts each of which shall be an original and shall together constitute one and the same agreement.

Declaration of Intent executed on 25 February 2020 in Athens (Greece)

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister

THE UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS EUROPEENNES DE FOOTBALL

Aleksander Čeferin
President