

Monday, 22nd September 2025

Mr. Gianni Infantino

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Subject: Enforcement of FIFA Statutes in relation to the Israeli Football Association

Dear President,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to raise urgent concerns about the application of FIFA's own statutes in relation to the Israeli Football Association.

Article 72.2 of FIFA's Statutes is clear: *"Clubs and teams affiliated to a member association may not play on the territory of another member association without the latter's approval."* The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) is a fully recognised FIFA member association, and its territory has been formally acknowledged through FIFA's admission process. Nevertheless, six Israeli clubs physically based in settlements in the occupied West Bank continue to participate in Israeli domestic competitions without PFA consent. This constitutes a direct and ongoing breach of Article 72.2.

At the same time, Palestinian football faces systemic barriers — from restrictions on freedom of movement for players, to damage inflicted on stadiums and training facilities, to raids on sporting institutions. These realities directly obstruct the right of Palestinian players and fans to participate in the game on equal terms.

Football governance must remain faithful to its own rules. FIFA's credibility rests on consistent and impartial enforcement.

Very recently, a United Nations Commission of Inquiry issued a report concluding that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza and that top Israeli officials have incited genocidal acts. These findings reinforce the urgency for international institutions, including FIFA, to act consistently with international legal and ethical norms.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, FIFA acted rightfully and decisively, suspending Russian clubs and national teams within days. FIFA's credibility depends on consistent and impartial enforcement of its own rules. Anything less risks undermining not only the principles of fair play but also the trust placed in the organisation by players, fans, and member associations worldwide.

We therefore call on FIFA to:

- Enforce Article 72.2 of its Statutes and put an immediate end to the participation of Israeli settlement clubs in Israeli domestic competitions;
- Hold the Israel Football Association accountable for authorising and facilitating these violations;
- Safeguard the rights of the Palestinian Football Association by ensuring its full and equal standing as a member, not just in principle but in practice;

- Suspend the participation of Israeli clubs and national teams in all FIFA competitions until compliance with FIFA statutes and international law is restored.

We look forward to your
reply.

Yours Sincerely,

MEP Daniel Attard (S&D, MT)
MEP Alex Agius Saliba (S&D, MT)
MEP Thomas Bajada (S&D, MT)
MEP Sandro Ruotolo (S&D, IT)
MEP Evin Incir (S&D, SW)
MEP Brando Benifei (S&D, IT)
MEP Hana Jalloul (S&D, ES)
MEP Cesar Luena (S&D, ES)
MEP Bruno Goncalves (S&D, PT)
MEP Sergio Goncalves (S&D, PT)
MEP Krzysztof Smiszek (S&D, PL)
MEP Alessandro Zan (S&D, IT)
MEP Andre Rodrigues (S&D, PT)
MEP Matjaz Nemec (S&D, SL)
MEP Marco Tarquinio (S&D, IT)
MEP Cecilia Strada (S&D, IT)
MEP Alessandra Moretti (S&D, IT)
MEP Johan Danielsson (S&D, SW)
MEP David Casa (EPP, MT)
MEP Sirpa Pietikainen (EPP, FI)

MEP Merja Kyllönen (The Left, FI)
MEP Rudi Kennes (The Left, BL)
MEP Arash Saeidi (The Left, FR)
MEP Estrella Galán (The Left, ES)
MEP Mimmo Lucano (The Left, IT)
MEP Lynn Boylan (The Left, IE)
MEP Marc Botenga (The Left, BL)
MEP Rima Hassan (The Left, FR)
MEP Irene Montero (The Left, ES),
MEP Isabel Serra (The Left, ES)
MEP Manon Aubry (The Left, FR)
MEP Nikos Pappas (The Left, HL)
MEP Cristina Guarda (Greens, IT)
MEP Jaume Asens Llodra (Greens, ES)
MEP Catarina Vieira (Greens, NL)
MEP Ana Miranda (Greens, ES)
MEP Leoluca Orlando (Greens, IT)
MEP Mounir Satouri (Greens, FR)
MEP Saskia Bricmont (Greens, BL)
MEP Maria Ohisalo (Greens, FI)
MEP Vincent Marza Ibanez (Greens, ES)
MEP Vlad Voiculescu (Renew, RO)