

Monday, 22nd September 2025
Mr. Aleksander Čeferin
Union of European Football Associations

Subject: Suspension of Israeli Teams – Upholding UEFA’s Commitments to Consistency and Rule of Law

Dear President Čeferin,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to raise urgent concerns about the application of UEFA’s own principles in relation to the Israeli Football Association.

Article 49(3) of the UEFA Statutes provides: *“Competitions which are not organised by UEFA but are played on the territory of a UEFA member association need the approval of both the member association concerned and UEFA.”* Likewise, Article 51(1) stipulates: *“No combinations or alliances between UEFA member associations or between leagues or clubs affiliated, directly or indirectly, to different UEFA member associations may be formed without the permission of UEFA.”*

Nevertheless, Israeli clubs physically based in settlements in the occupied West Bank continue to participate in Israeli domestic competitions without the consent of the Palestinian Football Association (PFA). This undermines the authority of the PFA as a fully recognised member of both FIFA and UEFA, and represents an ongoing breach of these principles.

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. UEFA’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 UEFA, to act consistently with international legal and ethical norms.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, UEFA acted rightfully and decisively, suspending Russian clubs and national teams from all competitions. UEFA’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 across Europe.

We therefore call on UEFA to:

- Enforce Articles 49 and 51 of its Statutes and immediately end 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;
- Ban Israeli clubs from European club competitions and suspend Israeli national teams until compliance with UEFA 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 Nemeč (S&D, SL)

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MEP Alessandra Moretti (S&D, IT)

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MEP Leoluca Orlando (Greens, IT)
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