



Member of the European Parliament

President Aleksander Čeferin
Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Brussels, 16 October 2019

Honourable President,

During the England vs Bulgaria Euro 2020 qualifier in Sofia, on Monday, abusive and unacceptable racist behaviour took place. Many commentators have called this one of the most appalling nights seen in football.

While we welcome the measures already taken such as introduction of disciplinary proceedings against Bulgaria and, in consequence, the resignation of the president of the Bulgarian Football Union, more stringent measures must be established throughout football in Europe.

Media and witnesses reported monkey chants, television pictures shown at half-time displayed fans making Nazi salutes and wearing jumpers with the message "UEFA Mafia: No Respect".

It is appalling to see players subjected to this kind of abuse and discrimination.

We ask you immediately to increase action across UEFA to prohibit Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and to ensure that all football authorities and fans in Europe are aware that the consequence of such behaviour will be severe.

In your statement published today, we read that "... the football family thought that the scourge of racism was a distant memory. The last couple of years have taught us that such thinking was, at best, complacent."

We believe that the UEFA takes racism and all manner of personal assault seriously with zero tolerance for racism, but zero tolerance must mean just that, zero tolerance.

UEFA must take action against anyone found to be abusing players, and if necessary, to punish countries by playing their matches behind closed doors or banning teams. This behaviour cannot be tolerated.

We look forward to your quick reaction to this emergency.

Yours sincerely,

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