



SPÜRBAR ANDERS.

UEFA

Mr. Aleksander Čeferin
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Cologne, 19 July 2022

RheinEnergieSportpark

UEFA Europa Conference League - dealing with clubs from Belarus

Dear Mr. Čeferin,

We are contacting you regarding this year's UEFA Europa Conference League season and the upcoming play-off round for 1. FC Köln in the upcoming month for the targeted qualification to the group stage.

Since four clubs from Belarus - FC BATE Borisov, FC Gomel, FC Shakhtyor Soligorsk and FC Dinamo Minsk - are also participating in the qualifying rounds for the UEFA Europa Conference League group stage and a clash with one of these clubs is therefore theoretically possible in the upcoming play-off matches, 1. FC Köln is calling on UEFA to take decisive action in view of the political situation.

Among other things, 1. FC Köln stands up for liberality, diversity and peaceful coexistence. Therefore, we strongly condemn the openly communicated closeness of the government of Belarus to Russia and the associated attitude of Belarus in connection with the Ukraine war. The massive support of the Russian invasion war on Ukraine by Belarus is not only against the values and norms of 1. FC Köln, but against those of the entire sport. For this reason, we urge UEFA to follow the IOC's recommendation and to exclude not only the Russian teams but also the teams from Belarus from all European competitions with immediate effect.

The legal legitimacy of such an exclusion was recently confirmed by the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The European Union has also already imposed sanctions on Belarus in response to its involvement in Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. It is now high time for UEFA to take a clear position and - as already been done by several other sports federations - follow the IOC's recommendation. UEFA's decision to hold the games with the participation of teams from Belarus on neutral ground is simply not sufficient in this context.



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We are looking forward to your feedback and expect that UEFA will again intensively deal with an exclusion of the clubs from Belarus. In line with this, we would like to inform you that 1. FC Köln, as a member-centered professional football club, will share this letter with its members.

Of course, we are available also for a personal exchange on this topic.

With best regards from the Geißbockheim

1. FC Köln GmbH & Co. KGaA

Dr. Christian Keller
Managing Director

Philipp Türoff
Managing Director



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