



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations

Brussels, 27/06/08

Tuesday 1 July in Paris: Launch of the European social dialogue for the professional football sector

The news:

Vladimír Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ján Figel', EU Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth will open the first meeting of the new European social dialogue committee in the professional football sector. Sir David Richards, President of the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL), Jean-Michel Aulas of the European Club Association (ECA) and Philip Piat, President of the International Federation of Professional Footballers' Associations - Division Europe (FIFPro), as representatives of employers and players, will sign the rules of procedure during this ceremonial opening together with UEFA.

The social partners' aim is to bring more legal certainty and stability to footballers' contracts, a need which is felt by players and clubs. Minimum requirements for players' contracts (insurance, education, dispute settlement etc.) will be the first topics on the table. European social dialogue gives employers and players the opportunity to conclude agreements in the area of employment relations in the football sector at European level. The Commission's role is to facilitate this dialogue in the framework of the sectoral social dialogue committee.

The background:

FIFPro represents around 28 000 players in 20 EU Member States. EPFL represents leagues and clubs associations from 17 EU Member States with altogether more than 600 clubs in the EU. The ECA represents up to 103 clubs, of which 66 in the EU, participating in European club competitions.

The social partners have been working on the establishment of an official social dialogue at European level for six years. The Commission reconfirmed its support for social dialogue in the whole sport sector in its White Paper on Sport of July 2007.

Social dialogue is an instrument which allows social partners to contribute to the shaping of employment relations and working conditions specifically for their sector in an autonomous and participative way. Given the high degree of trans-national mobility on the football labour market, the European dimension is essential.

The event:

The ceremonial opening and signing will take place in the Hotel Lutetia, 45, boulevard Raspail, Paris, France on 1 July 2008 from 10.00 to 11.10. Journalists can attend the event with the possibility to put questions after the event. A press release will be issued.

The sources:

European social dialogue:
<http://ec.europa.eu/socialdialogue>

White Paper on Sport and its Background and Context annex:
<http://ec.europa.eu/sport>

Commissioner Špidla's website:
http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/spidla/index_en.cfm

Site internet de M. Figel'
http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/figel/index_en.htm

The contacts:

Katharina von Schnurbein +32 2 298 14 08 katharina.von-schnurbein@ec.europa.eu
Carmel Dunne +32 2 299 88 94 carmel.dunne@ec.europa.eu
John MacDonald +32.2.295.52.67 john.macdonald@ec.europa.eu
Sophie Andersson +32.2.295.02.08 sophie.andersson@ec.europa.eu

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11.

<http://ec.europa.eu/socialdialogue>