



Union des associations européennes de football



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## ***European Professional Football kicks-off social dialogue***

In Paris yesterday, a formal European Social Dialogue Committee for professional football was created. ("European social dialogue" is the term used to describe discussions between employers and employees on a European level.)

The launch was timed to coincide with the French Presidency of the EU which also began yesterday, 1 July 2008, in Paris.

The European Social Dialogue Committee for professional football is made up of the main groups comprising players and clubs on a European level, namely the EPFL and ECA representing clubs (employers) and FIFPro Europe representing players (employees), in addition to UEFA as the governing body of European football.

The Committee will work closely with the Professional Football Strategy Council, which was created last year to modernise UEFA's governance structures by involving the different stakeholders in the decision-making process (it comprises elected representatives of associations, clubs, leagues and players).

The different groups involved in the European social dialogue in football have chosen the UEFA President, Michel Platini, to chair the Committee.

UEFA President, Michel Platini, commented: "This is an important day for European football - in football, where there is no dialogue it often leads to conflict. The European Social Dialogue Committee for professional football should help to improve understanding between European football and the EU on employment issues. I am very happy that professional football in Europe will finally speak to the EU in a co-ordinated way on labour matters."

Philippe Piat, President of FIFPro Europe, said: "The Social Dialogue in European football will help to achieve better legal security because, when the partners are in agreement and all groups are taken into account, decisions have much more force."

Umberto Gandini, of the ECA, commented: "The ECA is very happy to be present as a partner in this very important process, and is looking forward to taking an active part in the dialogue."

### Note to editors:

FIFPro Europe - is an association of national player unions with around 28,000 players as members.

EPFL - is an association of the 27 main professional league organisations across Europe with over 900 affiliated clubs.

ECA - is an association of over 103 clubs comprising the top clubs (by sporting performance) in each European country.

UEFA - is the governing body of football in Europe.

*Note: all four organisations have a membership that covers the whole of the European area, not only the EU, but all have a very good membership within the 27 EU member states.*

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