



European Parliament

To:
The President of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA)
Mr. **Gianni Infantino**

The President of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
Mr. **Aleksander Čeferin**

Brussels, 30 June 2017

Subject: COMBATTING SEXISM AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN FOOTBALL

Dear Mr. Gianni Infantino,

Dear Mr. Aleksander Čeferin,

As members of the European Parliament, we hereby write to you to express our deep concern regarding the numerous expressions of sexism, hate speech and gender based violence occurring during football matches.

These are not isolated cases. In football stadiums as well as in other sport environments, cases of gender based violence and sexism are common, however due to the lack of incidence data and protocols, the majority of these cases remain unnoticed and are not denounced. Public condemnations by sport authorities or football clubs against sexism and gender based violence are almost non-existent, which is the result of the underestimation of the problem.

We would like to reiterate that gender based violence is not a private affair and it requires to be treated with the same protocol as racist aggressions or insults. Cases of sexist speech are also common against women referees, elite sportswomen or other women attending sports games. The acceptance and tolerance of these attitudes reinforces the role of the aggressors, promotes tolerance against these crimes and spreads a feeling of impunity. It also minimizes this reality, stigmatizes the victim and normalizes these types of aggressions.

We urge that you, as Presidents of the main football institutions, publicly and firmly denounce all cases of sexism and urgently end the institutional tolerance against sexism and violence against women. Both FIFA and UEFA have previously condemned racist insults and even imposed fines on some football clubs for racist chants and aggressions. Therefore we request that you take these cases very seriously and do all in your power to eradicate this terrible reality. In our consideration, it would be of outmost importance that both FIFA and UEFA initiate a public awareness campaign to set up a concrete protocol to combat sexism and violence against women in sport.

Thanking you in advance for your good attention to this urgent matter, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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