



For the Game. For the World.

**FACSIMILE**

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Zurich, 5 April 2016  
ASG/pco

**Decision of the FIFA Emergency Committee**

Dear Mr Kontonis,

We would like to sincerely thank you for hosting a meeting in your office in Athens on 30 March 2016 with the FIFA and UEFA delegation led by Mr Costakis Koutsokoumnis, the President of the Cyprus Football Association and a member of the FIFA Associations Committee.

As stated in our letter dated 21 March 2016, FIFA and UEFA had urged you to reconsider your decision to permanently interrupt the 2015/2016 Greek football cup competition, otherwise they would consider the case for sanctions. Unfortunately, such commitment was not secured either during the meeting or by 1 April 2016, the deadline indicated in our letter of 21 March 2016, and as a result the case was referred to the FIFA Emergency Committee.

The Emergency Committee was fully briefed on the content of the discussions in your office. It took note of your concerns with regard to public safety during football games as well as your assumptions on the links between violence and the way the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) was handling some football aspects, notably the management of referees and the treatment of officials under investigation, which were key for the lifting of your decision. It acknowledged the frequent references to the national laws enabling you to take such actions, as well as your wish to wait for the outcome of the judicial action taken by the HFF before the Supreme Court.

As already stated in the joint FIFA and UEFA letter sent on 21 March 2016 and as repeated by the delegation, your decision to permanently interrupt the 2015/2016 Greek Cup is deemed disproportionate and as interference in the internal affairs of the HFF in violation of the FIFA Statutes with regard to interference (cf. arts 13 and 17 of the FIFA Statutes). Less stringent or more appropriate measures, such as matches without spectators or international refereeing for the remaining games of the Greek Cup could have been implemented in close collaboration with the HFF, especially when the championship is taking place regularly.

**Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

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There is also a necessity to hold in-depth discussions about some provisions of various laws which might lead to interference, notably Law 2725/1999, Law 4326/2015 and the recently passed anti-doping law. While the responsibilities of the authorities are not being questioned, any law and the interpretation thereof should guarantee the independence of the HFF, as stipulated by the FIFA Statutes.

Any reference to the case brought before the Supreme Court by the HFF is irrelevant as it could easily be withdrawn, and because regardless of the eventual decision, the issues linked to the implementation and the potential interference of the law would remain.

Under these circumstances, the FIFA Emergency Committee decided to set a deadline of 15 April 2016 for the decision to permanently interrupt the 2015/16 Greek Cup to be reversed, failing which the HFF would face an automatic suspension. The Emergency Committee also decided that should the decision be reversed, FIFA and UEFA would re-assess the situation and address any concerns raised by the authorities and initiate dialogue with the relevant authorities with regard to the above-mentioned laws.

We would like to stress that the suspension of the HFF would mean that no team from Greece of any sort (including clubs) could have any international sporting contact (cf. art. 14 par. 3 of the FIFA Statutes). Furthermore, it would also mean that neither the HFF nor any of its members or officials could benefit from any FIFA or UEFA development programme, course or training initiative. FIFA would inform its member associations through a circular letter accordingly.

We sincerely hope that it will not be necessary to take such measures, which would be detrimental to Greek football. FIFA and UEFA are, as ever, ready to assist Greek football but a suspension would delay any possible improvement.

Yours sincerely,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MKattner".

Markus Kattner  
Acting Secretary General

Copies to: Hellenic Football Federation  
UEFA