



Date 24/6/2021
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TO:

- Mr Aleksander Čeferin
UEFA President
- Mr Theodore Theodoridis
UEFA General Secretary
- Mr Zoran Laković
UEFA National Associations Director

Notified to:

- Mr Gianni Infantino
FIFA President
- Mrs Fatma Samoura
FIFA Secretary General
- Mr Nodar Akhalkatsi
Director Member Associations Europe, FIFA

Dear Mr Čeferin,

Following our latest correspondence, and given everything that took place during the matches of the UEFA Euro 2020 group stage, Hellenic Football Federation reverts to the matter of the sporting name of the neighbouring Football Federation of North Macedonia.

As arises from your official website, your member is the Football Federation of North Macedonia (and not "Macedonia", <https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/member-associations/mkd/>).

Similarly, it is the National Team of North Macedonia that participated in the UEFA Euro 2020 (and not "Macedonia", <https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/teams/59205--north-macedonia/>).

Of course, it could not be otherwise since, as is known, every one of your member national associations must have as a point of reference a country that is "recognised as an independent state by the majority of members of the United Nations" (cf. also "European organised sport model"). We refer to article 5 par. 1 of your Statutes that stipulates: "Membership of UEFA is open to national football associations situated in the continent of Europe, based in a country which is recognised as an independent state by the majority of members of the United Nations, and which are responsible for the organization and implementation of football-related matters in the territory of their country".

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Nonetheless, we note that to this day the Football Federation of Macedonia has been allowed, accidentally or deliberately, to also self-designate as "Football Federation of Macedonia", in fact using as the badge of the Federation (in the website, hence domestically and globally, etc.) and on the National Team's shirt, the initials of this second name ("ΦΦΜ", <https://ffm.mk/en>).

We deem that this practice is inconsistent and contradictory from a sporting point of view and causes confusion to the fans, and not only them. Common sense -and not only that- dictates that the reference name, that specifies/determines the name of a national football association, can only be the constitutional/*erga omnes* recognised name of the state in which the Association is situated (in the case at hand: North Macedonia). Besides, only one of your members may be situated in each country ("*only one association shall be recognised as a member association in one country*" – and this can only be the Football Federation of North Macedonia, which is already your member).

We endorse your standard position, as foreseen in our statutes (and also in the statutes of the Football Federation of North Macedonia), that European football cannot turn into a field for the transmission of political messages of any kind. We also infinitely appreciate your resolute commitment that you will continue to protect political neutrality, as this is enshrined in our statutes.

Moreover, we welcome the statement dated 18/6/2021 of the Prime Minister of North Macedonia, Mr Zoran Zaev, to the Athens News Agency - Macedonian Press Agency, as follows (<https://www.amna.gr/sport/article/562739/Z-Zaev-sto-APE-MPE-Tha-epiluthei-to-thema-me-tin-onomasia-tis-ethnikis-sto-Euro-2020>, <https://www.amna.gr/en/article/562741/Zaev-to-ANA-Issue-of-national-teams-name-at-EURO-2020-will-be-resolved-its-been-raised-with-the-federation>):

"All of Europe knows that our national football team represents North Macedonia at the Championship. Even if the Federation is not a public entity, the national team is. As it is in all countries in the world. So it is and should be clear on all levels and to everyone that it is the national team of North Macedonia, irrelevant of the initials of the Federation on the kit. We have already raised this aspect with the Federation and will resolve the issue on the basis of the Prespa Agreement and the UEFA rules and tradition in the upcoming period. [The] Prespa agreement's implementation is a work in progress and our goal is to gradually find solutions with our neighbours that implement the Agreement and move us forward on the basis of cooperation and mutual respect."

Whereas, indeed, the Football Federation of North Macedonia is not a public entity and must maintain its independence and manage its affairs without any influence from third parties, respecting the Statutes and Regulatory texts of Association Football. Whereas this action, of the double sporting name, of the neighbouring Football Federation of North Macedonia has, in our opinion, albeit inadvertently, a clear however undue political goal that is not appropriate to sporting circumstances.

For this reason, we ask you, in accordance with the provisions of your statutes (indicatively, article 7bis, "Obligations of Member Associations", etc.):

- To obligate the Football Federation of North Macedonia, by force of a decision with immediate effect taken by the UEFA Emergency Panel or by any other UEFA competent body, in your opinion, to use in their general relations with you and each and every one of your Members, the other Confederations and FIFA, in particular in

your official competitions and in any and all of their activities, **solely** its official and recognised sporting name, namely the name of its membership (Football Federation of North Macedonia), immediately amending its badge, from the initials "FFM/ΦΦΜ" (Football Federation of "Macedonia") to the initials "FFNM" (Football Federation of North Macedonia).

- In the alternative, in the event of non-compliance of the Football Federation of North Macedonia, we ask for the implementation of article 8(3b) of your Statutes, referring to the exclusion of a Member.

Thanking you in advance for your time and interest on the matter, we remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Sincerely,

Theodoros Zagorakis
HFF President



Iakovos M. Filippousis
HFF Executive Secretary