



Signing ceremony of the Council of Europe convention on integrated safety, security and service approach at sports events and in particular football matches

Stade de France, 3 July 2016

- Despite significant progress made over the last two decades, violence still represents one of the most challenging issues that football has to face these days.
- Violence is a challenge that sports bodies cannot tackle alone, so we must have effective cooperation in place and support from public authorities. It is clear that we must act together in order to kick violence out of football forever.
- The clashes between English and Russian hooligans which occurred in Marseille last month are here to remind us that we can and must do more to prevent and punish violent behaviours.
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- The new Council of Europe convention is a significant step forward in this direction.
- It will help to ensure safety of spectators at football matches through a wide range of specific measures. It will also facilitate a more “structured” cooperation and information exchange between police forces and key stakeholders (associations, clubs, fans etc.). Moreover, the Convention will contribute to guarantee that spectators, be them young, old or disabled, always feel welcome in our stadiums.
- I therefore warmly commend the efforts of the Council of Europe which has enabled this new convention to become a reality. More than 30 years after the Heysel and the previous convention it was high time.
- We sincerely hope that all parties will now ratify and implement the new convention without delay. I am reassured in this regard to see so many Ministers and senior public officials gathered together today in this audience.
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- The direction is now set, but there is still work to be done because violence has no place in football. There must be no sanctuaries for hooligans.
- UEFA stands ready to play its part. We have taken a number of concrete measures in the past and I assure you that our efforts will not stop here.
- But on this issue, as in many others, we are stronger together than we are alone. We must stand up for our Europe values and take our responsibilities. That is what UEFA will do. And we stand ready to work with all others prepared to do the same in order to establish a "zero tolerance policy".

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