

Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU)
Mr Oleksandr Bandurko
General Secretary
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Zurich, 24 January 2011
SG/tre/epa

Dear Mr Bandurko,

We refer to the letter of 11 January 2011 from your First Vice-President Mr S. Storozhenko, informing us about the request from 38 collective members of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) to convene an extraordinary general assembly with the main agenda point of declaring a vote of no-confidence in the FFU President. In this regard, we have received clear evidence that some of these members made the decision to request the convening of this extraordinary general assembly after strong pressure was exerted on their delegates by government representatives and other persons and bodies external to the FFU. In addition, some of the meetings of the members were not held in accordance with the FFU's rules and regulations.

This process started during the XII FFU Congress on 15 December 2010, at which the FIFA/UEFA delegation that was in attendance witnessed an attempt to violate the FFU's statutes, change the congress agenda and bring forward the dismissal of the current FFU leadership in a procedurally illegal way. As a consequence of these events, FIFA decided to closely monitor the situation and has collected material documenting interference by the state authorities' representatives in FFU members' (e.g. regional federations', associations') activities. These findings were made by FIFA on the basis of first-hand information from independent sources, the media and participants in the events.

In this respect, we would like to remind you that pursuant to art. 13 par. 1 (d) of the FIFA Statutes, the Members of FIFA are obliged to ensure that their own members comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies. In particular, it should be emphasised that art. 13 par. 1 (g) and art. 17 of the FIFA Statutes state that FIFA Members shall manage their affairs independently and with no influence from any third parties. The FFU, as a FIFA member association, is obliged to ensure the independence of its members from government interference in football's democratic self-governance. This has not been the case in the current process and FIFA has established that the request to convene an extraordinary general assembly was made following interference from the government and other quarters.

In addition, there are clear indications that the interference will not stop in the current context. For this reason, FIFA requests that the FFU maintain its current executive committee until the end of its legitimate mandate in 2012. FIFA will not recognise any other leadership which emerges from a process marred by interference.

Moreover, we ask the FFU:

1. to confirm that the members of the FFU have stopped any activity aimed at organising elections before the end of the FFU's leadership term in 2012; and to this end,
2. to provide confirmation from the authorised governing bodies of the FFU members that they will abide by this request.

In case of non-fulfilment of the above requirements by 4 February 2011, we will submit the case to the FIFA Emergency Committee with a request that appropriate sanctions be imposed in accordance with art. 14 of the FIFA Statutes (Suspension).

We would like to underline the direct effects a suspension could have on the future of Ukrainian football. Among other things, it would mean that no Ukrainian team of any sort (including clubs) could have any sporting contact with a FIFA Member (cf. art. 14 par. 3 of the FIFA Statutes).

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION


Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

ASSOC