



English

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FANS' CONGRESS

REPORT

BARCELONA

16.-18. JULIO DE 2010

www.footballsupporterseurope.org

Content:

Intro	3
The EFFC Programme – Overview	4
The EFFC Workshops 2010 - Summaries.....	6
Behind Closed Doors Only?!	
The f*%\$ed up economics of football	
Action Heroes Against Modern Football?!	
Not here for YOUR entertainment!	
Bridging a gap – Supporters Liaison Officers	
Emergency Service Needed!? EURO 2012	
The 2nd AGM of Football Supporters Europe	15
The EFFC Social Events – Impressions.....	17
The FSE Committee 2010/2011	19
Appendix.....	21
FAQs.....	21
FSE Statutes	24

Summer, sun, football, la playa, paella, fiesta...

European Football Fans' Congress 2010 with the World Champions in Barcelona.

Time to summarize the results of the 3rd gathering of European football supporters of its kind. Time to show the great progress Football Supporters Europe (FSE) has made in becoming an independent, representative grassroots network by fans and for fans in Europe.

More than 250 participants, representatives of various fans' groups and organisations, football governing bodies and authorities from 34 countries came together again to discuss what football fans across Europe can do together across the continent to make their voice heard and to trigger changes to the better in the game. Apart from that, we obviously also used the opportunity to celebrate the reunion of old and new friends in legendary football stadia and at beautiful beaches under the Spanish sun.

We were lucky to experience Barcelona as our venue for this event which confirmed its reputation as one of the most impressive football cities in Europe, in the country of the then just newly-fledged World Champions 2010 just one week after their overtly successful campaign in South Africa.

As for the work parts, we combined the lessons worthwhile for us. In

learned from the past two years with new ideas to make everything even more this overall report, you can find a programme overview together with the wrap-up of the outcome of the six workshops that took place. They dealt with topical issues relevant to football fans in Europe such as sanctions affecting football supporters, football finances, female football fans and the upcoming EURO2012.

Every workshop group was given a project or action to plan that should be implemented within the upcoming 12 months with the support of as many football supporters in Europe as possible since every fans' organisation can only ever be as strong and vibrant as its actions and the quality of contributions from its membership. Furthermore, you can find a summary of the minutes of our Annual General Meeting 2010, including a copy of our newly adopted statutes and work programme for the upcoming 12 months.

For all those that are just wondering who the f%&\$ / heck we are and want nothing more than a quick overview, they can find an FAQs section on FSE, self-portrayals of the newly elected

executive board, the FSE Committee,

and, last but not least, impressions from the absolutely enjoyable framework programme at this years European Fans' Congress in here, that was organized with great support from national and local fans groups in Spain and FC Barcelona over three days.

They deserve the greatest THANKS this year, the Spanish fans amongst the FSE members, in particular those many volunteers from the national fans' organisation of minority shareholders FASFE, such as Senales de Humo and APMAE, who contributed greatly to all parts of the programme, the penyas (official supporters clubs) of Barca who helped with setting up the Friday night reception together with Aficiones Unidas, and the supporters from Cadiz who ran the entire Saturday night event! And obviously, we could not have organized all this without the three main venues provided at cost-price or even for free by the football clubs RCD Espanyol, Barcelona FC and CF Barceloneta.

We hope that all participants enjoyed the event as much as we did. We think that it was another overtly motivating experience that should ensure all of us that FSE is on the right path. Last but not least, this is also illustrated by the fact that thanks to the initiative taken by the FSE members Alpha Brondby and Brondby Support, we can already announce the dates and venue of the European Fans' Congress 2011: the EFFC 2011 will take place in Brondby&Copenhagen in Denmark from 1-3 July 2011. Further information will follow in early spring 2011.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



3rd EFFC in Barcelona, 16th–18th of July 2010 – Program

Time	Friday, July 16th	
09:00	Arrival of participants	
10:00		
11:00		EFF
12:00		
13:00		
14:00		
15:00		
16:00		
17:00		
18:00	18:00 – EFFC2010 Kick-off	
19:00	With a reception with representatives of FC Barcelona and Barcelona city council at Camp Nou	
	<u>Afterwards:</u> Guided stadium Tours at Camp Nou	
20:00		EFF
	20:30 – Get together & Tapas	
21:00	at Camp Nou	with
22:00		
23:00		
24:00		
01:00		

Overview

Saturday, July 17th Sunday, July 18th

10:00–17:00

FC Workshops & EFFC Market

At Estadi Cornellà-EI Prat

10:30–15:00 (max)

**2nd Annual General Meeting of Football Supporters
Europe (FSE) network & EFFC Market**

at Estadi Cornellà-EI Prat

15:00

Press Conference at the Stadium

19:30 –

EFFC AfterWork Football Fiesta

at the club bar of CF Barceloneta

with DJs, football films and monster paella

18:30–24:00

Monjuic Goodbye Barbecue

with DJs and a stunning view over Barcelona

Saturday workshops

1. Behind Closed Doors Only?! Sanctions vs Self-Policing in Football

- Chair:** Nicole Selmer, Bündnis Aktiver Fußballfans (BAFF), Germany
- Speakers:** Dirk Vos, Supportersfederatie Profclubs/FSE Committee, Belgium
Svein Erik Rogsund Vålerenga Bakke, Klanen, Norway

Current sanctioning by UEFA and national FAs tends to target whole fan groups even if the misconduct can be linked to individual persons or they are being seen as or even are disproportionate. We wanted to exchange our experiences from the different countries across Europe on this and look at alternatives that can help to avoid collective punishment of whole sets of fans. We wanted to talk about successful methods and models of self-policing amongst fans and develop a concept to promote self-regulative fan behaviour and see how FA and UEFA's existing models of sanctioning could be modified to incorporate such concepts.

2. The F\$%&ed up Economics in Football

- Chair:** Dave Boyle, Supporters Direct/FSE Committee, England
- Speakers:** Sefton Perry, Benchmarking Manager, UEFA Club Licensing
Representative of the Spanish National Sports Council, Spain

European Football has never had as much money as it currently does, but never have clubs across the continent been so financially threatened. What are the root causes of this instability, and what can supporters do to prevent clubs getting into financial difficulties which threaten their existence and what can they do if their clubs are facing extinction? Dave Boyle was joined by speakers from the Spanish National Sports Council (CSD) who have been involved in the process of writing their new professional sports law and by officers from UEFA who helped create their new rules on Financial Fair Play.

3. Action Heroes Against Modern Football?! Ultras

- Chair:** Medhi Tazaret, Ultra at Olympique de Marseille, France
- Speakers:** Max Gödl, Ultra at Rapid Vienna, Austria
Evelina Peccarini, Ultra at Poggibonsi, Italy

Ultras, in the sense of tifo groups, are amongst the most colourful contributors in football and see themselves as core of the atmosphere inside the grounds. Most of the ultras/tifo groups amongst us also take an active stand in the fight for fans' rights and against the negative consequences of commercialization in football for fans. Still, they/we are very often confronted with a negative perception of this fan culture as it is being interlinked with hooliganism or discriminatory actions, whether it is by clubs, by the police or even by own fellow supporters at one club. Together, we wanted to explore why this is the case, what about this is true and what isn't and what we can do to tackle this. In the afternoon, we wanted to organise an joint FSE action day on fans' rights across Europe – as active football fans altogether, showing the football world that we take a stand together on topics that matter to all of us!

Saturday workshops

4. ...Not Here For YOUR Entertainment! Female Football Fans

- Chair:** Sarah Köhler, F_in Network of Women in Football, Germany
- Speakers:** Elisabeth Kotvojs, Fairplay FanwÖrk/FARE, Austria
Rikke Bay, Bronby IF supporter, Denmark
Carmen Rodriguez, Getafe C.F. SAD, Spain

Over the past decade(s), more and more female football supporters and claimed their right to be seen as an important and equal part in the stands, as "true fans" in the game, rather than being reduced to being "the girlfriend of" or a sexual object. We wanted to have an exchange on the current state and experiences of male and female football fans on this – whether or where sexist discrimination still exists and where there are best practice examples that have successfully overcome this across Europe. In the afternoon, we wanted to kick-off the joint organisation of the first European exhibition on female football fans together with you!

5. Bridging A Gap – Supporters Liaison Officers As A Model In Europe

- Chair:** Antonia Hagemann, Supporters Direct_Europe/England
- Speakers:** Tomas «Tower» Weinmann, SLO of Borussia Mönchengladbach, Germany, Jorge Silvério Professional Football League, Portugal

We are committed to our clubs, but still we're often treated as consumers. The Supporter Liaison Officer (SLO) is a mediator between the fans and the club and the model acknowledges that we are not just consumers but that we have a more special relationship to our clubs. SLOs (fan representative) at your club could help improve the relationship between you and the club. Here the participants learned what the key responsibilities of practicing SLOs are and work out together how this could be communicated and further developed at your club. You can shape this project! The SLO at your club could be you!

6. Emergency Service Needed?! EURO 2012 – A Fans' Perspective

- Chairs:** Sasa Dupor, Vatreini.net/FES Fans' Embassy Core Group, Croatia
Fernando Bonat, CEPA/FSE Fans' Embassy Core Group, Spain
- Speakers:** Michael Gabriel, KOS Fanprojekte/Director FSE Fans' Embassies, Germany
Joanna Laska - Wielki Slask & Piotr Zejer - Lwy Polnocy, Poland
Igor Gomonai – Supporters Kyiv & Taras Tanchak – GoKarpaty, Ukraine
Elena Karpukhina, CAFÉ – Eastern European Development Officer
Thomas Gassler, FSE Fans' Embassies Go East Project Coordinator

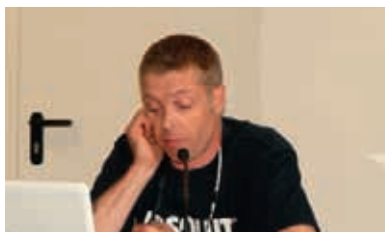
The speakers of the workshop informed about the fan scenes in Poland and Ukraine, their current activities and the Fans' Embassy Go East project. The aims were to establish a working group for the EURO 2012 FanGuides and to plan a joint Fans' Action with Polish and Ukrainian fans in 2011.

"Behind Closed Doors Only!?" Current Sanctions affecting Fans and Self-Policing"

Chair: Nicole Selmer

Speakers: Dirk Vos, Supportersfederatie Profclubs/FSE Committee member, Belgium, Svein Erik Bakke, Klanen Valerenga, Norway

Countries represented: Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Wales.



The workshop was characterized by quite a productive and lively discussion amongst a wide range of participants. The input speeches were made by Dirk Vos on UEFA's sanctions system (available as ppt on the FSE website), Svein Erik Bakke from fan club Klanen at Valerenga Oslo on their experience of self-policing and self-regulation and by Daniel Nowara from the fan department at Borussia Dortmund on that club's model on handling fan material for visiting fans.

We decided to let our proposals on the existing sanctioning system be preceded by a general remark. The question how football is to be perceived by both UEFA and national FAs come up more than once in our discussion and it also affects the question of sanctions: Basically it is the question if football regarded as private or public. As a commercial event, privately owned by the clubs, companies and sponsors and thus governed to a huge extent by private regulations and house rules? Or as a public event, as part of society, part of our shared cultural heritage and thus as subject in the first place also to public law, civil and penal, and its rules on discrimination, free assembly and free speech. Our answer of course is the latter one and we feel sure that this discussion is going to come up again under the next years.

Now to our proposals. These are to be seen as sort of a package deal, belonging together rather than a "take our pick" offer and are addressed both to UEFA but also to national FAs since not all clubs obviously are under the mandate of UEFA when not playing on European level.

One important aspect is to get fans involved and by that also to take on more responsibility for their own behaviour instead of just punishing it after the fact:

- Stronger involvement of fans and fans' perspectives on the topic of sanctions. Very easily this might be achieved by having fans' representatives at security meetings before matches (which is obligatory for example in Norway) or at the bodies making decisions on sanctions afterwards.
- Encourage FAs and clubs to enter into a structured (i.e. not depending on committed individuals) dialogue with fans including different fans' groups and where possible even individual, unorganised fans. This in order to include fans expertise in decision making processes which actually is a preventive measure.
- Evaluation system of sanctions: is there one, can we see it, how does it work? (more a question that a proposal, obviously)
- No to matches behind closed doors! We regard this as a rather unjust sanctioning measure since it involves not only the club where misconduct has occurred but also another club and its supporters. This isn't bound to give authority and credibility to sanctioning decisions.
- Set up an incentive system for clubs to involve supporters, do fan work, provide good conditions for home and away fans at league and European matches (like offering reliable information on the rules, a contact person before matches, contact with security, police): There might be bonus points for that, a reduction of fines etc.
- Encourage clubs to set up a "supporters' charter", i.e. an agreement jointly negotiated with as many different groups involved in football as possible (club, different fan groups, security, sponsors, police, FA), setting out ground rules on behaviour, procedure at matches, agreements on fan material, anti-discrimination ... you name it. It was proposed that FSE should try

to work out a proposal on what such a supporters charter could look like.

The F**ked up economics of football

Chair: Dave Boyle, Supporters Direct/FSE Committee member, England

Speakers: Sefton Perry, Benchmarking Manager, UEFA Club Licensing
Prof Miguel Garcia, adviser to La Liga Futbol Professional, Spain
Xavi Pujol, RCD Espanyol, Spain

The session was attended by around 30 delegates. Countries represented included Spain, Germany, England and Croatia; others may doubtless have been present, but only participants from those countries contributed to discussion.

What was it about?

European football has never had as much money as it currently does, but never have clubs across the continent been so financially threatened. The workshop was about discussing what the root causes of this instability are and what supporters can do to prevent clubs getting into financial difficulties which threaten their existence and what they can do if their clubs are facing extinction.



Presentations

Sefton Perry from UEFA outlined the results of the European Club survey they undertook dealing with the financial position of top-flight European clubs. He then introduced the UEFA Financial Fair Play regulations in overview, and outlined the basic principles, processes and timescales for its introduction.

Professor Miguel Garcia, an adviser to La Liga Futbol Professional in Spain, spoke of the economic condition of Spanish football, and gave details of the new licensing system they were introducing for the forthcoming season.

Xavi Pujol from the minority shareholders association of RCD Espanyol outlined the dire financial position of many La Liga clubs, and the causes of their financial instability, and the campaign of Spanish fans to convert their clubs back to the associations they were until the law of 1992 in Spain forced the conversion of clubs in companies in all but four cases (FC Barcelona, Real Madrid, Athletic de Bilbao and Osasuna). Prospects are that the legal obligation to be incorporated as limited companies is going to be lifted by the new Professional Football Act currently being drafted

Discussion

The majority of the discussion was taken up with question to Sefton Perry about the licensing system and financial fair play. Technical questions about the more specific details were covered, and delegates were directed to the UEFA website where the regulations were available for viewing in full. Discussion of broader themes focused on:

- The role of leveraged debt in club ownership and takeovers; Sefton stated that this was something seen in only two takeovers that they were aware of, and to some extent was not a problem which they would or could legislate against given the legality of this practice in some European countries.
- The lack of transparency in club ownership and use of extra-European legal jurisdictions to vest ultimate corporate ownership; this was agreed to be an issue where clubs were structured as companies and where the jurisdiction tolerated extra-territorial ownership.
- The role of fans in creating a culture in which financial recklessness is accepted; owners and presidents of clubs which overspend often do so on the basis that fan pressure for improved team squads is driving this, and fans had a role to play in creating an understanding of the implications of these policies, not least in the fact that the costs of new players and higher salaries would be paid by fans by either higher ticket prices, or increased reliance on broadcast income which in turn would mean broadcasters would increase their importance in decisions made by clubs.

Outcomes

- Fans support UEFA approach towards more sustainability in Football.
- National leagues and/or associations should implement domestic versions of such schemes. The impact of these policies on the financial health of European clubs remained to be seen but those bodies who had made steps to address these issues deserved credit, but needed to be mindful that the process required constant monitoring and amendment.
- Fans should educate their environment on financial fair play measures and the implications these could have for their own clubs.
- Supporters Direct should continue to lobby and raise awareness on behalf of supporters stressing the importance for clubs to be run on a sustainable basis and for supporters to be involved in the management of their clubs.
- FAs, professional leagues and governments should encourage participation of supporters in ownership of clubs since they are the stakeholder most interested in the sustainability of their clubs
- Supporters should get in touch with FSE member Supporters Direct for support and advise if their clubs are faced with financial difficulties



Workshop: “Action Heroes against Modern Football?! Ultras”.

Chair: Medhi Tazaret, member of fans groups at Olympique de Marseille & Rapid Vienna

Speakers: Heidi Thaler “Fair-play Vidc Vienna/Austria”
Evelina Pecciarini Fan from Poggibonsi/Italy

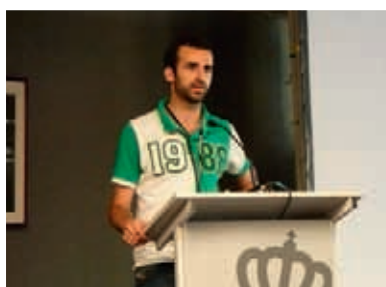
Countries represented: Austria, Croatia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey and others.

The objective of the workshop was to have a general discussion, to share our different experience between members of fans' groups, individual fans, between organisations or institutions in order to have a concrete result at the end of the day aiming at the organisation of a joint European action day.

Morning Session:

The Workshop started with the presentation of the two speakers.

Evelina Pecciarini supporters of her town's football club: Poggibonsi made a presentation of her experience as ultra in Italy and told us how she is thinking about the “modern” football which is the major overall topic for ultra groups in general. Like for other fans' groups, the ultra' approach to football is largely characterized by the observation that the ongoing commercialization in football leads to an increasing exclusion of genuine fans from the game and restrictions with their traditional means of expression. Whilst remaining problems with violence and discrimination shall not be ignored, Evelina describes what she and some groups and initiatives are doing to tackle the resulting problems in the framework of especially along a topic that can be summarized as “Repression & Modern Football”.



As an example, she spoke about the fan ID card that is being introduced in Italy. From the perception of the majority of the fans in Italy and in particular the ultra groups, this card was imposed by the Italian Ministry of Interior to create a new category of supporters, named “official fans”, and to brand the respective other fans as potentially “dangerous” people under questionable criteria. It's perceived as the tool designed to destroy the Ultras movement in Italy. The great opposition to this “Tessera del Tifosi” (Italian for Fan Card) has united thousands of people from all levels of the supporters base in the battle to fight it. The fan card looks like a usual plastic card and has the same size than classical identity cards or credit cards. Starting from the 2010/2011 season, it's compulsory for all professional clubs to introduce this card. Before issuing such a Fan Card, clubs have to ask to the police if the fan is eligible to get such a fan card and the eligibility criteria seem to be set by the local police strategies.

However, you need the fan card to buy season tickets and tickets for away games of your team. Furthermore, there is a special chip built into the card using radio-frequency identification technology that allows to keep track of the card and hence of the owner, especially when fans go to an away match. But that's not all: the fan card is also a rechargeable credit card. The card is being marketed as a tool that should promote loyalty and community feeling amongst fans. Institutions are stressing these issues, this sense of belonging, to increase the likeliness of a positive reaction of the supporters to the card. But the fact remains that the fan card was in fact introduced as a matter of money-making and of keeping people collectively under control.



The Italian ultra movement is fighting the fan card and many ultras already stated that they won't buy season tickets for the next season when the card is being introduced. The Italian ultra movement is leading a big educational campaign about the fan card, seeking to spread more differentiated factual information about the background of the fan card. Institutional communication is not transparent at all, and the fear amongst the organized supporters is that many “normal” supporters will subscribe to the fan card without really knowing what it is and what happens to their data. This procedure seems to be at the very border between legal and illegal, and there are concrete suspicions that it violates constitutional rights in Italy.

Most Italian ultra groups are using leaflets, social networks, websites, every media they can have access to with the objective to open people's eyes. The dissemination of all information available about the fan card, different from the undifferentiated perspective the media is usually adopting, has always been a core issue for ultras and using this new technology

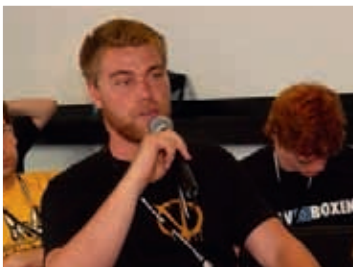
responsibly can become increasingly important since it can also help greatly to improve the generally negative public opinion about the ultra movement.

Heidi Thaler presented the Austrian campaign “Pyrotechnics ist kein Verbrechen”, which shows the importance, this particular topic has for ultra groups across Europe. If used responsibly, pyro is considered a major item of expression for ultra culture amongst the groups, used to enhance the creative visual support for the team, it is not to be considered an act of hooliganism. The Austrian campaign, that was supported by tens of thousands of fans all across the country and all over Europe within only weeks after it was launched, was created by some Austrian ultra groups after the Austrian government had introduced a new version of a law, supposed to prevent the usage of pyrotechnics in Austrian football stadia.

For many years before, the use of “Pyrotechnics” by fans had been widely accepted inside stadia in the country, both by most clubs and local authorities, they were mostly seen as contributing positively to the atmosphere inside the stadium. Clubs, Media and TV benefited from the pictures. The overall objective of the overtly successful campaign, that found backers amongst both club officials and players in the Austrian Professional League aimed at opening a constructive dialogue with the government to find a solution for a continuation of responsible usage of pyrotechnics and to end the repressive approach. With energy, passion and enthusiasm the ultras group gave a very positive picture in the country and even the clubs, the journalist and the citizen have given a positive feedback of this campaign. More information about the campaign and news about the current situation can be found at “www.pyrotechnik-ist-kein-verbrechen.at”

Afternoon Session

We briefly continued the morning discussions about topics around repression, for example the fan ID card in Italy or the “Santos case” from the Ultras of Marseille. Santos stayed some months in jail in Madrid after he was arrested by the police during the game Athletic Madrid - Marseille while he was helping a woman who had been beaten down on the floor by the police during clashes between the police and the Marseille supporters in the stand. Then we discussed about other topics that are important for ultras all across Europe: single or season tickets that are becoming more and more expensive year after year which is making it more and more difficult for the most loyal fans to attend the games, the change of kick-off times because of TV broadcasting rights – these are all things that are perceived as killing our game.



From the perspective of many matchgoing, so-called “active” fans, TV companies are allowed to influence the scheduling of games according to their wishes for the benefit of people in front of the TVs that seem to be perceived as more important by the football governing bodies meanwhile than the fans who give their energy, passion and also a lot of money to support their fans’ group and subsequently their teams, such as ultras. “Switch off your TVs and switch on your Passion!” could be one of the slogans expressing the views of ultras on this topic. The workshop participants share their own experience about all these topics, we had a constructive discussion.

Also, we decided to organise a joint action day and identify one motto for the whole action. After taking a vote, we chose the theme “repression” for our future action day. We drew up a first plan and decided to establish an email group. During the planning stage, participants of this working group who decided to be part of this adventure will identify people, fans’ groups and

organizations that want to help us or that just want to participate in the action day. The mailing list established will discuss the joint slogan, the date of the action day, materials used etc...

At the end of the workshop, we agreed that it was important to start something concrete and get going as soon as possible since nobody wants to come back to the European Fans Congress next year and discuss the same issue and potential actions all over again. We want a concrete result out of this workshop. It is never too late to start something. We will not change the world, the football, the stadium or whatever immediately but we have the right to express ourselves with our fan culture and this is a thing football fans can do best. Step by step we will reach our targets.

Not here for YOUR entertainment! Female Football Fans

Chair: Sarah Köhler, F_in – Network of woman in football / Germany

Speakers: Elisabeth Kotvojs, FairPlay/VIDC / Austria
Rikke Bay, Alpha Brondby / Denmark

Countries represented: Austria, Denmark, Sweden, England, Croatia, Turkey and Germany. Woman and men chose the workshop.

In the beginning we had a short introduction of the speakers and the chair who showed pictures of sexist discrimination in football from Germany and presented the sexism/anti-sexism-panels of the new „crime scene stadium“-exhibition from the German network of active football fans, BAFF.

Elisabeth Kotvojs works for FairPlay.Different Colours.One Game in Vienna. She told us about her work that focused on anti-racism work in football and during the last years more and more on anti-discrimination work. FairPlay is also involved in some EU funded projects, for example the OLYMPIA-project which is a preliminary EU-funded action on women in sport. Within this project a fanzine called ultra:weiblich (ultra:female) will be produced to provide female fans with a kind of flexible framework into which they can bring their ideas, contributions and approaches.

The F_in network Women in Football operating in Germany, Switzerland and Austria was also introduced.

After that, Rikke Bay from Denmark, a supporter of Brondby IF and member of Alpha Brondby told us some of her thoughts towards female football fans and sexist discrimination.

To prepare the general discussion everybody got a few cards to write down catchwords. During the following presentation of the cards and discussion we got an overview on the different perspectives from each participant according to the question „What are the main problems / prejudices / topics to deal with as a female football fan?“

We arranged the cards in order to find headlines as answers to the question

Structure

- Male norm
- Hierarchies
- Invisibility

Objectification

- Attention (from the guys)
- Groupies
- Sex object

Roles

- Assumptions
- Categorised
- Cooking
- „Buffer range“
- Weak
- Excluded

Prejudice

- Different approach
- Ignorance
- No clue
- Uninterested

We assessed that it is difficult to talk about sexism, what it is and what it's not and where it is shown because it underlies every societal area and so it is in football. Because of the „normality“ of sexist discrimination it is therefore hard to figure out.

Over the course of time we had an interesting discussion on „pink merchandise“ and found out that it might be a „German-speaking-country-problem“. Participants from England and Croatia argued that in their countries and clubs it is quite normal to wear pink shirts and scarves, also for men. As opposed to fans in Germany and Austria, they saw no problem according to the debate on „traditional colours“ of a club and the production of merchandise only as „accessoires“.



In the second part of the workshop we tried to develop the framework for the upcoming exhibition on female football fans which should be presented at first during the woman's world-cup in 2011 in Germany.

We started with the question of aspects of the „perfect situation“ and what has to be done to reach it. We were in agreement about to overcome gender roles but see everybody as a fan – as it is under way with anti-racism work and the attempts to overcome prejudices on basis of the colour of one's skin. At the same time it is necessary to stress and name the existence of sexism and not to summarize it with several other forms of discrimination like homophobia or racism under one heading.

The exhibition should highlight the presence of woman and girls in football and raise awareness on and struggle against sexism. Before that it might be also an option to use this year's FARE action-week to focus more on campaigning and actions against sexism.

The exhibition should depict aspects from as many countries as possible and should contain statistical data on for example the number of woman working in the countries' FA and clubs or in sports journalism. There should also be personal histories of female supporters e.g. of longstanding fans or young girls in ultra-scenes.

Another issue that was raised was how to approach sexism and deal with sexist remarks.

It is also important to name sexism not just as „a problem of women“ but to also strengthen the responsibility of men in relation to reduce sexist discrimination in football.

At first a concept for the exhibition will be written and the next steps will be to gather information. Therefore all the participants of the FSE-Congress will receive an email with certain questions on the situation of woman in football in their country. We want to ask the same question annually to have the possibility to update the data-base and to extend the exhibition constantly.

Also a facebook-group will be opened to keep in touch with everybody who is interested in the ongoing work and to share information.

The work will be coordinated by Elisabeth Kotvojs who can be contacted via FSE.

Bridging a gap – Supporter Liaison Officers as a model in Europe

Chair: Antonia Hagemann, Supporters Direct Europe, England

Speakers: Thomas Weinmann, Supporters Liaison Officer,
Borussia Moenchengladbach, Germany
Jorge Silvério, Supporters Ombudsman,
Portuguese Professional Football League, Portugal

Countries represented: Croatia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Israel, Germany, England, Turkey and Austria



What was it about?

Under Article 35 of the new UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations, from season 2012/13 clubs will have an obligation to appoint an SLO to ensure a proper and constructive dialogue between a club and its fans.

To implement the new requirements, a network of SLO project contacts from each national governing body across Europe will be created and work together with the UEFA club licensing team and Supporters Direct to assist clubs and supporter groups improve communication in each of the 53 UEFA member associations. The detail behind the criteria is still to be developed over the next years. (read more)

The workshop was about discussing how SLOs should be implemented at club level, federations and leagues across Europe. The input of the participants in the workshop will be incorporated as the project is going forward.

What is an SLO?

Supporter liaison officers at clubs help improve the dialogue between the fans and the clubs they support and already exist in a few leagues across Europe. SLOs must be credible with fans, and therefore should have experience with and contacts to the networks in the fanbase at the club. They are employed by their clubs as the key contact point for fans.

They inform the fans about relevant decisions made by the board and in the other direction communicate the needs of the fans to the board and management structures; build relationships not just with various fan groups and initiatives but with the police and security officers, fan projects; and also engage with fan liaison officers of other clubs before matches to help ensuring that the fans behave in accordance with security guidelines.

Presentations

Thomas Weinmann, Supporters Liaison Officer, Borussia Moenchengladbach, spoke in detail about the key responsibilities of being an SLO in Germany, from being a lawyer to the fans inside the club, supporting self-regulation in the stands to the specific tasks during the week, and at home and away games.

Jorge Silvério, Supporters Ombudsman, Portuguese Professional Football League, outlined his responsibilities as the ombudsman of the supporters at league level. We learned about fan culture in Portugal and its implications on his job to improve the relationship between the fans and their clubs and the league.



Discussions

We discussed who should become the SLO at the club, what their main tasks should be and how the SLO concept itself could be promoted amongst fans, and towards the clubs, federations and leagues in the coming years.

We also discussed that the implementation and development of supporter liaison officers will be a tool to raise minimum standards, and how these could further develop over time to improving the dialogue between the fans. It was also talked about not just how the clubs' but also the fans' input could and should look like to make the project work.

Some outcomes

- Who should do the job? In an ideal world the SLO should come from the fans and must be accepted by them. He or she should have experience with and contacts to the various fan groups at the club and should have adequate qualifications.
- To-do list for the SLO: E.g. the SLO should arrange meetings between fans and the club, coordinate activities in and outside the stadium, identify products and activities for fans, promote positive fan culture, distribute tickets, help finding agreements of mutual benefits for fans and the club, defend fans rights and raise awareness about the problems fans have.
- How to distribute the message? It was agreed that in the coming years fans need to

spread the message about the project amongst themselves so that they are informed and could act accordingly once the project is developing.

- Project updates: Antonia Hagemann will outline the next steps of the project once they have been agreed in more detail on the FSE and SD website and send updates throughout the next three years.
- Fans will have the opportunity to comment on and discuss the developments. SD and UEFA will try and incorporate as much practical experience and feedback, as the project is going forward.

For further information on the Supporter Liaison Officer project please contact Antonia Hagemann

Emergency Service Needed?! EURO 2012 – the Fans' Perspective

Chairs: Manolo Viquez Osiel, CEPA Andalucia, Spain; Sasa Dupor, Vatreini, Croatia

Speakers: **Poland:** Joanna Laska (WKS Slask Wroclaw - Wielki Slask) and Piotr Zejer from FSE members Lwy Polnocy from Gdansk: Polish fan scene with focus on host cities (good practice and fields of problems); expectations, fears and proposals for EURO 2012

Ukraine: Igor Gomonai (Football Supporters Kyiv) and Taras Tanchak (NGO Go Karpaty Lviv) both FSE members: Ukrainian fan scene with focus on host cities (good practice and fields of problems); expectations, fears and proposals for EURO 2012; Sergiy Pronkin: ZaBoys Ultras, Shakhtar Donetsk

CAFE: Elena Karpukhina: EURO 2012 - a chance to improve the situation for disabled fans in Eastern Europe
Thomas Gassler about Fans' Embassies and Go East

Presentation by David Zimmermann who was the responsible person for the Fans' Embassies in Switzerland at EURO2008 (presentation time line and research of work with help of volunteers)

Establishing a working group with volunteers for the research of the FanGuides in the host cities

Countries represented: Poland, Ukraine, Spain, Germany, England, Scotland, Russia, Austria, Switzerland, Croatia, Sweden



Conclusions:

Expectation towards EURO 2012:

Poland:

- participation of fans in the process
- stadiums improved
- new body exercise programs for children developed

Ukraine:

- better relationship between government institutions and fans
- infrastructure improved
- traffic infrastructure improved
- breaking of stereotypes towards Ukraine and Ukrainian fans
- opening the country towards tourism

Fears:

Poland:

- more repression / new laws
- commercialization – higher prices of goods and services
- higher football ticket prices

Ukraine:

- hard to establish dialogue with government institutions
- commercialization – higher prices of goods and services
- new laws (unnecessary?)
- discrimination and prejudices towards fans



Proposals for action:

1. Should empower local fans groups
 - a. written commitment towards partnership of FSE and local/national fans groups
 - b. joint presentation with FSE towards government institutions and local government (Patrick Gasser informed that all the host cities already made commitment to support the process by including the fans in organizing hospitality program)
(Also, the group was informed that a national agency for organizing EURO2012 in Ukraine was recently founded)
 - c. foster networking between fans groups
 - d. FSE supporting local fans actions was positively commented as good practice
 - e. should think of one joint action organized in all the host cities in Poland

and Ukraine (The Ukrainian fans proposed national fan tournament in 4 cities, but it is only for Ukraine – however cost effectiveness should be evaluated)

- f. should also empower unprivileged and disabled fans
- 2. Local fans are willing to support the process, as stated explicitly by Polish and Ukrainian fans present at the workshop
 - a. without question, local fans are experts in local situation and local conditions
 - b. cooperation in gathering of information
 - c. local fans should be included in planning and conducting host cities volunteer programs
- 3. Should develop contribution tools
 - a. for development of Fanguide website and fanguides
 - b. FSE should develop new collaboration tools on FSE website (e.g. messageboard)

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of Football Supporters Europe

18 July 2010, RCD Espanyol Stadium/Spain

SUMMARY

On Sunday, it was time for the members of FSE present, to come together for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In total, 108 members with voting rights were present, amongst them 36 individual members as well as delegates appointed in accordance with the statutes of a total of 54 locally active members and 21 nationally active members.

Representatives from UEFA, the Council of Europe as well as other fans' representatives took part in the AGM as welcomed guests and observers.

The members present appointed FSE Coordinator Daniela Wurbs chair of the meeting. Antonia Hagemann from the nationally active FSE member Supporters Direct from England was appointed keeper of the minutes.

The main topics discussed and voted upon in lively discussions were



- the reports on activities and finances of FSE for the financial year 2009 and season 2009/2010
- the proposed amendments to the statutes, and
- the resolutions submitted by members

Also, it was time again for the annual election of the electable members in the FSE Committee for season 2010/2011. The FSE Committee is the executive entity of FSE responsible for the strategic guidance, representation of FSE and the implementation of FSE's activities in line with the decisions and positions of the membership throughout the year, together with the FSE Coordination.

Reports of activities

The report of FSE's core activities presented by FSE Committee member Emilio Abejón illustrated the great level of activity and the achievements of on behalf of FSE over the past 12 months. For instance, FSE representatives took part in several high-level conferences as keynote speakers and could in consequence significantly enhance institutional lobbying for fans' interests. Highlights in this context certainly were the EU Conference on Club Licencing, the annual meeting of the FSE Committee and Supporters Direct with Michel Platini, Gianni Infantino, William Gaillard and his heads of department, as well as the EU Sports forum and the Council of Europe conference on ultra culture. As one consequence of the work undertaken, the Council of Europe Standing Committee on the Prevention of Spectator Violence in Sport (T-RV) granted FSE a permanent seat as observer.

Furthermore, FSE answered various networking and media queries, and supported several fan-related campaigns such as the international campaign "Football vs Homophobia". As one result of the European Fans' Congress 2009, FSE also successfully launched its first own European stadium action days campaign on fan-friendly kick-off times under the motto "Our Game – Our Time!". Within four weeks after the call of action was launched, the campaign received support from fans' groups and fans' organisations in more than 12 countries across Europe.



In the meantime, the two on-topic divisions of FSE, the Fans' Embassy Division and the Disabled Fans' Rights Division, were also active at several levels: the Disabled Fans' Rights Division, in collaboration with the charity CAFÉ, provided guidance and advice both on accessibility issues in various fields of activity of other FSE projects and actions, such as the FSE Website, and initiated the foundation of several disabled fans' groups in Spain or Belgium. The Fans' Embassies Division kicked off its three year project Fans' Embassies Go East with significant financial support from UEFA and with the objective to strengthen existing and establish additional fans' embassies initiatives and promote the work in preparation for EURO2012 in Poland and Ukraine (further details on the project are available on the FSE website www.footballsupporterseurope.org).

In this context, Mr Thomas Gassler, who also presented the divisional report of activities and the project outline of the Go East project, was recruited as an employee for the project coordination for the Fans' Embassy Division amongst applicants from more than 10 countries, and started to work in the FSE Coordinating Office in Hamburg in Jan 2010. Furthermore, the former director of the Fans' Embassy Division Ashley Green had to step down as director and hence as FSE Committee member and was replaced by Mr. Michael Gabriel from the German coordinating centre of fans' projects who was unanimously appointed as representative by the core group of the on-topic division.

At the same time, and presumably against the background of the successful work carried out by the different FSE entities, the membership figures of FSE have constantly increased and almost doubled since the last AGM in Hamburg, so that FSE represented a membership of more than 300 nationally or locally active fans groups and individual supporters in 36 countries with a total membership of more than 2.000.000 football fans (dated July 2010).

Generally speaking, new membership applications for the different membership categories of FSE are coming in every week from all across the continent and even beyond. 10 membership applications have been rejected over the past year (mostly for formal reasons or because the FSE core values weren't supported by the applicants), 3 memberships ended, e.g. because a locally active FSE member had ceased to exist as a fans' group.

Future perspective of FSE – next steps for 2010/2011

Against the background of the achievements of FSE over the past 12 months, the following fields of activity were identified as priorities as core tasks of FSE for 2010/2011:

- Organisation of next action days / activities and campaigns in 2011 (outcome depending on EFFC2010 workshop results)

- Seek to intensify the work in the field of repression and policing, based on outcomes from EFFC2010 and EFFC2009 workshops
- Publication of Reader on Campaigning and Fundraising for fans' groups
- Preparation of EU project funding application for an online FSE Fans' Encyclopedia and additional operational funds
- Relaunch of FSE Website, including a social networking platform, a proper forum, shop and a members section
- Further establishment of dialogue with national FAs and UEFA
- Further establishment of dialogue with European Commission and EU Football Experts Think Tank
- Increase membership and enhance network contacts
- Enhance existing partnerships, in particular with FARE, CAFÉ and Supporters Direct
- Employ office administrator for the FSE Coordinating Office

Financial report

The financial report presented in detail to the members by FSE Coordinator Daniela Wurbs highlighted mainly that FSE's funds were getting more and more stable over the past 12 months: whilst the core funding stayed at about the same level, as well as the funding for the organisation of the European Football Fans' Congress, the Fans' Embassies Division has significantly increased its budget with the funding provided for the implementation of the Fans' Embassies Go East project.



Other than that, the financial report presented illustrated the general balance between expenses and income. An slight overrun from the EFFC 2009 could be compensated with the core budget of FSE and via the HSV Supporters Club who covered all costs for the catering at the FSE event in their stadium.

Despite the fact that the greatest percentage of FSE's funding is provided by UEFA, it was stressed by the FSE Committee that still FSE was independent in its activities and that UEFA acknowledges this independence. On top of this, several members also contributed to the budget of FSE via paying voluntary membership fees ranging from amounts between 5,00€ and 200,00€. In this context, the wish and need to increase the budget via additional sources of income to also gain greater economical independence and the flexibility to keep the level of activities up in view of a growing membership was further underlined by both members and the FSE Committee.

Against the background of all reports presented, the FSE Committee was unanimously discharged for its work by the AGM.

Amendments to statutes

On the basis of the discussions at the AGM 2009 and resultant tasks given to the FSE Committee, the FSE Committee members presented proposals for amendments to several paragraphs of the statutes of FSE. After a thorough discussion, the AGM adopted the proposed minor amendments to the statutes for §1, §4, §8, §9, §10, §13.

A copy of the newly adopted statutes can be found in the appendix to this conference report.

Furthermore and following a respective proposal/ resolution by an FSE member, the FSE Committee was given the task by the AGM to organize the formation of a geographically diverse statutes commission until the end of the year. This commission should support the work of the FSE Committee in preparation of the proposals for amendments to the statutes for the AGM2011. The main tasks of this statutes commission will be to draw up proposals for amendments to the statutes proposed at the AGM2010 and to review the statutes to identify further areas for fine-tuning in time to present them for adoption/discussion at the AGM2011.

Elections of the FSE Committee

A total of 11 candidates stood for election or re-election for 8 electable posts in the FSE Committee for a 12 months term. The former FSE Committee members Dave Boyle and Emilio Abejón had decided not to stand for re-election anymore because they didn't feel that they could put in the amount of time and effort needed for the post and urged all members to consider this aspect with the elections if they want to keep the organization active and sustainable.

After a respective vote was taken, it was decided that the elections would be done by ballot. Before, all 11 candidates presented themselves to the AGM in 5 minute speeches.

On the basis of the voting rights in the statutes of FSE, votes were counted by members from Greece, Holland and Poland that didn't represent either of the home countries of the candidates. Thomas Gassler as an employee of FSE observed the counting process.

In the following, the names of the newly (re)elected FSE Committee members were presented to the AGM of FSE:

- Kevin Miles, England
- Christian Bieberstein, Germany
- Christina Magnussen, Norway
- Dirk Vos, Belgium
- Shay Golub, Israel
- Michal Riecansky, Slowakei
- Thomas Ferry, Scotland
- Pedro Miguel Silva, Portugal

Self-portrayals of all FSE Committee members can be found on page

The EFFC Social Events – Impressions



The EFFC Social Events – Impressions



The FSE Committee

Self-Portrayals

The following portrayals were compiled by the FSE Committee members themselves. The newly-elected members of the FSE Committee

Dirk Vos (Belgium) was one of the founding members of the Supportersfederatie Profclubs (SfP), a national grassroots supporters federation in Belgium. Now he's responsible for SFP's international connections and security issues. During his non-football time, he teaches intercultural communication and emancipational skills and puts theory into practice when it concerns fans' positions. Dirk has 5 children and is 47 years young.



Christian Bieberstein (Germany), 26, has followed his club, the Hamburger Sport-Verein e.V. (HSV) for more than 20 years now. At some point, when football started to change more and more, he changed as well from a solely easygoing, beer drinking, singing fan in the stadium into an active and critical supporter. Today, Christian is a member of one of the HSV ultra groups, he's an elected member of the board of the HSV Supporters Club and represents the national fans' organisation Unsere Kurve. Against the background of his commitments, he believes that fans can only be successful if they stand together, fight for their rights and cohesion, across borders and rivalries, every day.



Kevin Miles (England), 50, is the Director of International Affairs for the Football Supporters Federation (England and Wales). He has organized the Fans' Embassy for supporters of the England national team since World Cup in France, 1998. A fan of Newcastle United and England for over 40 years, Kevin has wide experience as a football supporter home and away, domestically and abroad, of two teams with both enjoy a large and passionate following year after year, without having seen either of them win a trophy.



Shay Golub (Israel), 33 years old, supporter of Hapoel Kfar Saba, is one of the founders and the chair of Israfans – The Israeli Supporters Organization. Israfans is a national organization that represents 32 fans groups (trusts and ultras) and speaks up on behalf of supporters in Israel. In his "2nd life", Shay is a media and marketing advisor for NGOs.



Christina Magnussen (Norway), usually supports IK Start from Kristiansand but is also representing the Norwegian Supporters Alliance NSA in Europe and has been an active football fan in different local and/or national fans' groups for seven years now. Christina is aged 28 and has a 4 year old daughter.



Pedro Faleiro Silva (Portugal), 34, is a fan of Sporting Clube de Portugal (Yes, don't ever mention Sporting Lisbon to him as he will correct you asap). After some years lobbying in his club he was one of the founders of the first active supporters association in Portugal, the Associação de Adeptos Sportinguistas - in Sporting...Portugal. In 2009, he got elected as an advisor to the club. Active, determined and committed you can always count on a joke from him as long as your approach doesn't start with some mention of the red or blue rivals. For some unknown reason, Green and White are his favorite colors...



Tam Ferry (Scotland), International Coordinator for the Association of Tartan Army Clubs, who have had an excellent 10 year working relationship with the Scottish FA, despite the Berti Vogts era! With a travelling support of up to 30K for qualifiers (as Scotland don't make it to tournaments these days), tickets and travel are of paramount importance to the friendly, kilned Scotland fans. Tam is 39, project manager and in need of more Facebook friends.



Michael Riečanský (Slovakia) is one of the founders of The Stands Are Ours!, a fan initiative started by a group of Slovak anti-racist fans, where he is responsible for campaigns and events. Aged 22, his job also revolves around football and anti-racism, such as the national initiative and FARE member L'Udia Proti Razismu, so he is never out of the topic. After all, that's what being a fan is all about.



The appointed members of the FSE Committee

FSE Coordination

Daniela Wurbs (Germany), at some stage, and more or less by accident, got involved in professional football supporters work at national level in Germany and has ended up continuing the work afterwards at local level in the field of fans' project work. Her main areas of responsibility were anti-racist campaigning, European fans' exchange programmes, lobbying and the management of various projects and integrative community football initiatives. Finally, and again it was rather a coincidence, she was offered to take the coordinating role for building what has now become FSE in 2007.

Daniela is still happy that her club FC St. Pauli finally got promoted to the Bundesliga again and confident that they will win the Championship and that fans will successfully reclaim the game...one day.



Director on-topic division: Fans' Embassies

Michael Gabriel, 48 (Germany) is the Head of the Coordination Office for German Fanprojects and was appointed Director of the Fans' Embassy Division of FSE only in May 2010. He has been involved in the domestic social work for and with young football fans in Germany since 1990 and has organized Fans' Embassies at international tournament since EURO 1992 in Sweden. He follows Eintracht Frankfurt regularly home and away and can still not believe that his club didn't win the Championship in 1992. At a younger age he was quite a good footballer, playing for Eintracht Frankfurt and winning two times the Championship at youth level in Germany. As a born Austrian national he was selected three times for the Austrian U-20 national team.



Director on-topic division: Disabled Fans' Rights

Joyce Cook (Wales) is the chair of the National Association of Disabled Supporters (NADS), a UK registered charity representing disabled football supporters and providing guidance to other sports such as cricket, rugby and Olympics 2012. Joyce who is herself disabled is a founder director of the Charity – the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) which is extending NADS works for disabled supporters across Europe. She travels extensively to matches across Europe with a resultant hands-on understanding of the many challenges for disabled supporters.



APPENDIX I

FSE – FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions on Football Supporters Europe

1. Membership:

Who can become a member?

Every individual supporter (natural and legal person, 14 years of age), formally and informally organised football fans groups, as well as local and national fan-related initiatives and organisations who are active in Europe can become a member of the FSE network. Europe is defined as the territory covered by UEFA member associations.

How can you become a member of FSE?

Simply fill out the membership form online from the website www.footballsupporterseurope.org. Alternatively, download the pdf-file from there, fill it in and send it to the postal address: Football Supporters Europe eV, Coordinating Office, P.O. Box 50 04 03, 22704 Hamburg

What are the benefits / responsibilities as a member?

As an FSE member, you have the right to participate (e.g. vote) in the AGM and in the online membership section with an own forum and social network for FSE members only. Furthermore, you can actively decide on the direction of FSE and you can also stand for elections if you are 18 years of age. You can participate in events organised by FSE and make free use of its services, unless stated otherwise. For the duties of the AGM see 2.

When does the membership start?

The membership starts after the confirmation by the FSE Coordination. Membership can end at any time for the end of the financial year with the submission of a written request to the FSE Coordination.

Does it cost anything to become a member?

There is no obligation to pay a membership fee for FSE at the moment, but voluntary contributions are very welcome as it supports our financial independence.

Any other conditions?

YES! By becoming a member of FSE you officially declare that you recognise the statutes of the network and support its principles:

- do not tolerate discrimination of any individuals on any groups including the following : ethnic origin, ability, religion, gender, sexual orientation and age
- reject violence, both verbal and physical
- stand up for the empowerment of grassroots football supporters
- promote a positive football supporters' culture, including values such as fair play and good governance

2. Structure of FSE: Who is Who + Who does What?

FSE has been incorporated into a members association according to German law. Member associations are owned by their members and democratically structured.

The Structure of Football Supporters Europe (Overview)



AGM (Annual General Meeting)

The AGM is the highest body, the 'Parliament', of the FSE. The AGM is held once a year and it is here that all FSE members decide about the aims, objectives and future actions of the FSE, approve changes to its statutes and elect the members of the FSE Committee for the following year.

Duties:

- Examination and approval of reports submitted by the FSE Committee and FSE Coordination
- Ratification of the actions of the managing boards
- Election of members of the FSE Committee (simple majority)

- Decisions on resolutions submitted
- Decisions on all proposed changes to the statutes

EGMs (Emergency general meetings) / General Meetings

Emergency AGMs can be called either by the FSE Committee or the FSE Coordination, or by at least ¼ of the total number of votes of the FSE members.

FSE Committee

The FSE Committee is the management board of the organisation, consisting of the FSE Coordination, the directors of the on-topic divisions and the elected members.

Structure:

Two thirds of the total positions of the FSE Committee + one third of the total number of permanent seats within the FSE Committee at the time of elections have to be reserved for members democratically elected by the AGM. Members are elected with a simple majority for one year. To avoid overrepresentation of one particular country within the Committee, there can't be more than one third of the elected committee members representing the same country.

Examples:

2 On-topic Divisions	= 2 seats
FSE Coordination	= 1 seat
+ 1/3 of permanent seats	= 1 seat
Elected members	= 8 seats (max two from one country)
3 On-topic Divisions	= 3 seats
FSE Coordination	= 1 seat
+ 1/3 of permanent seats	= 1 seat
Elected members	= 10 seats (max three from one country)

Duties:

- Overall running of FSE together with FSE Coordination
- Development of annual budget plan
- Implementing decisions made at the AGM
- Directing the FSE Coordination
- Appointing and dismissing the chief executive/FSE Coordinator
- Appointing and dismissing On-topic divisions
- Preparation of the annual financial statement and report on activities for the AGM

FSE Coordination

The FSE Coordination is the executive body of the FSE handling the day-to-day business of the organisation including all legal transactions. The FSE Coordination is appointed by and has to report to the FSE Committee and works closely with the On-topic divisions.

On-Topic Divisions

Fan culture is diverse. Hence, organisations or networks providing particular services relevant for football fans (e.g. fans' embassies services, disabled fans' rights, etc) can develop their work under the umbrella of FSE as "on-topic divisions". On-topic divisions would cover for example campaigning and lobbying, consultancy services and/or networking, etc and are ideally financially independent from the core funds of the network. The FSE Committee approves the creation or dissolution of an FSE on-topic division with a two-thirds majority. Currently there are two on-topic divisions: FSE Fans' Embassies & FSE Disabled Fans' Rights.

How is FSE Financed?

FSE secured core funding with UEFA until after the Congress and hopes to secure follow-up funding from UEFA, which will enable us to plan for the next two seasons. It's been clearly acknowledged by both sides though, that any funding from UEFA can only happen under the condition that FSE can remain independent with its activities. On top of that, we will also look for other sources in the near future to reduce the reliability on one source of funding and to retain/further strengthen our independency.

3. Voting and election procedures

How can I vote?

You have to be registered and admitted as a member of the FSE. Also, the weight your vote depends on your status: are you an individual member, do you represent a local fan group or initiative, or a national fan organisation?

Individual members

Your vote is restricted to one vote. You vote with a white voting card, which you will also use for the election.

Locally active groups / organisations

Formally or informally organised groups or initiatives active on local level should be represented by an appointed delegate for FSE at the AGM. The group's vote is restricted to three votes. Local groups vote with a yellow voting card, which they will also use for the election.

Fans groups /fans' organizations active at national/pan-European level

Formally and informally organised groups and initiatives active on national / pan-European level should be represented by an appointed delegate for FSE at the AGM. The group's vote is restricted to ten votes. National groups vote with a red voting card, which they will also use for the election.

NOTE: appointed delegates can represent a maximum of one locally active member and one nationally/transnationally active member at the AGM of FSE.

Standing for election – how do I do it?

You have to be 18 years of age and register and be admitted as a member first before you register as a candidate. You can register as a candidate via email at info@footballsupporterseurope.org or directly at the European Football Fans' Congress (please check our website for further information).

APPENDIX II

Football Supporters Europe (FSE) Statutes (dated July 2010) *English Translation*

Preamble

The work of FSE is based upon the understanding that the success of football as a global spectator sport rests on the participation and contribution of its supporters, and that it is crucial that these supporters have a collective voice and influence within the game.

Football is considered part of culture, and often in particular of youth culture. The changing nature of modern football, including its continuing commercialisation, has given rise to some tension between supporters on the one hand, and clubs and football authorities on the other. Some communities and social groups feel increasing alienation and exclusion from football, and there remain significant problems with racism and violence.

Conversely, where there is a decent level of self-organisation among football fans, and where there are opportunities for supporters to take part as equal partners in genuine dialogue; where supporters' concerns and interests are taken seriously; and where supporters are involved in decision-making processes – then there can be a perceptible improvement in atmosphere, an increase in community involvement, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

The activities of FSE are therefore based upon the following principles:

- An opposition to all forms of discrimination of any individuals on any grounds including: origin, ability, religion and belief, gender, sexual orientation and age
- The rejection of violence, both verbal and physical
- The empowerment of grass roots football fans
- Fostering a positive fan and football culture including values such as fair play and good governance

The success of football crosses national boundaries, as indeed do its problems. The existence of an European organisation of football supporters, enabling transnational exchanges of experience, networking and democratic representation, will have a real impact in addressing the social problems affecting the game, and in promoting positive values of sport and social inclusion.

With this in mind, FSE adopts the following statutes:

§ 1 Name, Place of Residence, Financial Year

1. The member association will be named „Football Supporters Europe e.V.“, with the abbreviation “FSE”
2. Its place of residence is Hamburg and it is registered under the number VR 20279 with the official register of member associations
3. The financial year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Tax Shelter

1. Football Supporters Europe pursues only and directly non-profit-making and beneficant purposes according to the section „Tax Shelter Purposes“ of the (German) Tax Code. The purpose of the member association is to foster international goodwill and understanding, tolerance, equal opportunities of women and men and democratic principles. The member association is acting selflessly; it doesn't pursue profitable interests in the first place.
2. Funds of the member association must be used for purposes related to its statutes only. Members of the member association in their role as members should not be granted benefits out of the funds of the member association. They are not entitled to benefits out of the funds of the member association when they quit. Nobody must benefit from expenditures, which aren't related to the purposes of the member association, or disproportionately high salaries.

§ 3 Aims and Responsibilities of the member association

The purpose of the statutes is accomplished by

1. Fostering democratic principles and international understanding by organising an independent, representative network for football fans in Europe, organised according to democratic principles, which provides both a platform for an exchange about their culture, in particular in the field of sport and the representation and determination of interests, based on the core principles of FSE, especially in dialogue with institutions that deal with football fans at European level. (for instance, by organising meetings of the network members, where different (fan) cultural customs and initiatives are presented; by informing and campaigning on (fan)cultural customs and interests in different countries; by organising mediation and info events between representatives of football authorities and network members from different countries)
2. Encouraging responsible self-organisation at the grass roots, especially amongst younger football fans, as part of overall democratic education and conveying of core values such as international goodwill, anti-discrimination and the rejection of violence.
3. The organisation of international workshops, presentations, seminars and networking events for football fans and institutional representatives in football on a regular bases, dealing with issues such as the organisation of sport as well as the presentation of and the exchange on (fan) culture, customs and successful initiatives in the field of sport/football in different countries across Europe (for instance, on issues of the organizational structure of football clubs and associations, fans' groups or ownership structures in clubs in different countries)
4. Providing preventive information and support services for football supporters at international matches, especially so-called “fans' em-

bassy services" as recognized method in the field of prevention of violent and discriminatory spectator behaviour.

5. Supporting and giving advice to fans' groups, fans' organisations and fan-related initiatives especially in Europe and provide assistance with the establishment of projects, such as intercultural exchange programmes to exchange culture and customs, in particular between (young) football fans in different countries, e.g. with fans' projects and integrative community football projects.
6. Public relations and campaigning by using football as a platform to convey values such as democracy, opposition to all forms of discrimination (e.g. exclusion, racism, anti-semitism, sexism, homophobia etc), fair play and gender equality.
7. The provision of publications and newsletters on activities of the member association and activities and campaigns of football fans in other countries
8. The provision of a data base on legal aspects, guidelines, regulations and core articles on fan-related issues and the organisation of sport (e.g. on issues of the organizational structure of clubs and associations, ownership structures in clubs and cultural forms of expression of (fans') groups in different countries)

The member association can employ full-time or part-time employees for the implementation of its tasks

§ 4 Membership

1. Every natural and legal person as well as informally organised groups with a named delegate for FSE can become members of the member association, given that they are predominantly active in the fans' sector and actively supporting the overall objectives of the member association, consenting to the core principles of the member association and actively support these values.
2. The acceptance as a member is dependent on the submission of an application (also possible via e-mail or online) with the representation of the FSE-Committee according to the statutes, which is the FSE Coordination.
3. The membership terminates with the death of the member, the lapse of their legal personality, their voluntary resignation, with the expulsion from the member association as well as with the dissolution of FSE.
4. The voluntary resignation of a member can be carried out by this member at any time without notice for the end of the financial year by submitting a written statement to the FSE Committee respectively the FSE Coordination.
5. A member can be expelled or prevented from joining the organisation by a decision of the FSE Committee or the FSE Coordination, if they act counter to the objectives and core principles of the member association, or if they don't fulfill their obligations towards the member association. The member can launch an appeal against this decision with the ordinary AGM. The AGM makes the final decision. The member in question must be invited to this assembly and should be heard. The principle of a two-thirds majority of the members present applies in these cases.

§ 5 Rights and Obligations of members

1. Football Supporters Europe e.V. can collect membership fees. The sort and amount of the membership fees have to be determined and adopted by the AGM in form of membership fee regulations, following a respective proposal of the FSE-Committee.
2. Members have the right to participate in the assemblies and events of the club as well as to make free use of the services (e.g. consultancy, information) and publications provided, unless stated otherwise.
3. Members are obligated to
 - a. act according to the core principles of FSE, support them and encourage other members to do the same.
 - b. fulfill and support the objectives and tasks of the member association
 - c. to pay membership fees when due and where required and fulfill their obligations as decided.

§ 6 Entities of the member association

The entities of the member association are:

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2. FSE-Committee
3. FSE -Coordination / Geschäftsleitung
4. On-topic divisions

§ 7 Annual General Meeting

1. The ordinary AGM must be held at least once a year and must be convened by the FSE -Committee respectively the FSE Coordination.
2. The FSE-Committee and the FSE-Coordination must present an annual report and a financial report at the AGM. After that, the AGM decides about discharging the FSE-Committee.
3. AGMs have to be convened in writing by the FSE-Committee or the FSE-Coordination at least eight weeks before the assembly.
4. Extraordinary AGMs must be convened in writing by the FSE-Committee or the FSE-Coordination, if required in the interest of the member association or demanded by at least ¼ of the total number of votes of all members.
5. After the end of the term of office of the FSE-Committee, the new FSE-Committee is to be elected by the AGM.
6. The AGM is the highest entity of the member association and entitled to give directives to the FSE-Committee.

§ 8 Voting System

1. All properly admitted members present who have reached the age of 14 years, have the right to vote at the AGM.

The weight of each vote depends primarily on the geographic sphere of activities of the respective members.

- a. With natural persons, the vote is restricted to one vote per member
- b. Legal entities, informally organized fans' groups and fan-related organisations and initiatives which are primarily active at local level, should be represented by an appointed delegate in the AGM, or a substitute, if the delegate appointed is prevented for any reason. The vote for delegates of locally active members is restricted to three votes per member at the AGM.
- c. Legal entities, informally organized fans' federations and fan-related organisations and initiatives which are primarily active at national/cross-European level, should be represented by an appointed delegate in the AGM, or a substitute if the delegate appointed is prevented for any reason. The vote for delegates of members active at national/cross-European level is restricted to 10 votes per member at the AGM.

The FSE-Coordination determines the final classification of each member by taking the statements made in the membership application form into account.

2. Delegates of local, national/cross-European members, or their substitutes, can represent at maximum one national/cross-European and one locally active member each as delegates with voting rights at the AGM of FSE.

§ 9 FSE-Committee

1. The FSE-Committee consists of

- a number of members elected by the AGM. The number of elected members is determined according to the conditions stated in §9 paragraph 2.
 - the FSE-Coordination/executive board
 - the directors of each on-topic division
2. The FSE-Coordination and the directors of each on-topic division are represented within the FSE-Committee, each with one permanent seat per entity. The final size of the FSE-Committee should always provide at least a two-thirds majority of elected representatives. The number of FSE-Committee members to be elected by the AGM is determined by the number of permanent seats at the time of elections whereby the percentage of 1/3 needs to be added to this number.
3. The number of elected members from one country in the FSE-Committee is restricted to the maximum number equaling one third of the total number of elected representatives within the FSE-Committee
4. The posts within the FSE-Coordination and the directing posts in the on-topic divisions can be exercised in form of a full-time employment.
5. The elected members of the FSE-Committee are elected by the AGM with a simple majority for a period of one year. They remain in office until a new FSE-Committee is elected.
6. The re-election of representatives is possible.
7. Every member of the FSE-Committee must be a member of the member association that has reached the age of 18 years or an appointed representative according to the statutes and §30 BGB (=German Civil Law Code).
8. The FSE-Committee respectively the representatives appointed according to the statutes have the following responsibilities above all:

a. development of an annual budget plan, a potential action plan as well as an annual report and a financial report

b. Convocation of the AGM

c. Preparing and implementing the AGM decisions.

d. In between the AGMs, the FSE-Committee respectively the representatives appointed according to the statutes have to take up the interests of the member association and make decisions that can't be postponed until the AGM.

9. Each member of the FSE-Committee has one vote. Unless stated otherwise in the statutes, decisions of the FSE-Committee are made with a simple majority of the eligible votes counted. With decisions concerning on-topic divisions or the executive board (FSE-Coordination), the respective representatives according to the statutes are not entitled to vote regarding issues of

- the dismissal of the respective person
- the dissolution of their on-topic division
- the existence, nature or dimensions of their full-time employment

§ 10 FSE-Coordination/ Geschäftsleitung

1. The FSE-Committee appoints and has the right to dismiss a chief executive/Geschäftsleitung, resident at the FSE-Coordination Office as legal representative according to the statutes and §30 BGB (German Civil Law Code)

2. In case of doubt, the actual authority of the FSE-Coordination/chief executive according to §30 BGB (German Civil Law Code) concerns all legal transactions, which are involved in the sphere of duties allocated to the executive board by the FSE-Committee.

3. The FSE-Coordination is represented with a permanent seat within the FSE-Committee
4. The FSE-Committee as a superordinated entity is entitled to giving directives to the FSE-Coordination and to control its work on a regular basis.
5. On a regular basis, but at least once every three months, the FSE-Coordination must inform the FSE-Committee of the current situation of the member association.

§11 On-topic Divisions

1. An on-topic division serves the more efficient organisation and further development of specific areas in the framework of the objectives and responsibilities of FSE, which require a certain level of expertise.
2. The establishment or dissolution of a on-topic division depends on a two-thirds majority decision of the FSE-Committee.
3. The structure of a on-topic division can adopt various forms of possible shapes. Internally, it can be structured both membership-based and like a loose network or with a committee structure or like a consultancy service.
4. Every on-topic division appoints a director/coordinator who represents the division within the FSE-Committee with a permanent seat. The directors/coordinators of the divisions are to be considered legal representatives of the FSE-Committee according to the statutes. In case of doubt, their actual authority involves all legal transactions occurring in the ordinary course of business of their respective division.
5. The annual and financial reports for the budget of each on-topic division have to be submitted with the FSE-Committee at the end of each financial year and as interim report in good time before the AGM, to allow them to be included in the overall reports.
6. The FSE-Committee is entitled to giving directives to the on-topic divisions.

§ 12 Recording of Decisions

All decisions made in meetings of the FSE-Committee or at the AGM must be put down in writing and be signed by the individually appointed recorder.

§ 13 Change of Statutes and Liquidation

1. The AGM decides about all questions regarding the statutes. Changes of statutes require a two-thirds majority decision of all members present.
2. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes must be sent in writing to the FSE Coordination at least 30 days prior to the AGM. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes need to be published seven days prior to the AGM.
3. The liquidation of the member association can only be decided at a special AGM convened for this purpose at least one month in advance, with a two-thirds majority of all members present.
4. In case of a liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter, all assets have to be transferred to a public body or another tax-privileged body for the purpose of fostering international understanding and sport.
5. Choosing the public body or another tax-privileged body in case of a liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter according to the conditions outlined in §14 section 4, resides with the FSE Committee with a two-thirds majority decision of all members of the Committee at the time of the liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter.

§ 14 Commencement of the statutes and preliminary regulations

1. These statutes will come into effect on the day of their registration with the official register for member associations.
2. The entities of the member association can make decisions based upon the statutes already before the registration which will come into effect with the registration.
3. The entities and representatives in charge at the time when these statutes were decided, continue their work until the AGM elects other legal successors.

MONEY CAN'T BUY PASSION!
¡EL DINERO NO COMPRA LA PASIÓN!



Contact/Imprint

Football Supporters Europe eV

Coordinating Office

P.O. Box 50 04 03

22704 Hamburg

Germany

Tel: +49 40 68 914 881

Fax: +49 40 386 99 868

E-mail: info@footballsupporterseurope.org

www.footballsupporterseurope.org

Published by:

Daniela Wurbs on behalf of FSE

Production:

Per Arne Flatberg