

**BWI** • Building and Wood Workers' International  
**BHI** • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale  
**BTI** • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen  
**IBB** • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois  
**ICM** • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

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Switzerland [www.bwint.org](http://www.bwint.org)

Geneva, 10 September 2020

**Mr. Aleksander Čeferin**

President

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Nyon, Switzerland

### **Re: Will UEFA ignore its human rights obligations?**

Dear President Aleksander Čeferin,

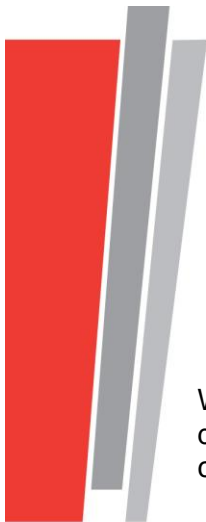
The UEFA Executive Committee in June 2020 has picked Minsk to stage the UEFA Congress in March 2021. That was of course well before the fraudulent election of the president of the Belarusian Republic, but that doesn't exempt UEFA to perform their commitment to human rights and the obligation to protect them.

The reported widespread violations in Belarus of human and civil rights are great cause of concern for the international community – including the global trade union movement. There are daily violations of labor and human rights of workers – including those of construction and wood workers. The negative impact of governmental and corporate actions on their working conditions and freedom of association cannot be overemphasized.

Those working conditions are far from meeting the human rights standards that should apply to host countries. The continuation of Belarus as host country would issue a renewed invitation to a wide range of human rights risks and this would undermine the democratic values and principles of the European workers and football fans. This goes against the big shift for human rights that the global sporting bodies have undertaken in the past 5 years.

UEFA has made considerable progress in recent years taking into consideration human rights. While UEFA has played a positive, but too limited, role in the promotion of human rights in the run-up to other football events at global and regional level, we have found that UEFA has been supportive of the progress on human rights in Russia, Qatar, especially in the respect for the labor and human rights of migrant workers.

But if the UEFA Executive Council doesn't retract or reconsider their venue of the UEFA Congress, it will betray the essence of its own human rights policies. We would like to quote Professor Ruggie in his report to FIFA, "The foundational challenge for FIFA now is to go beyond putting words on paper and adding new administrative functions. What is required is a cultural shift that must affect everything FIFA does and how it does it. The result must be good governance, not merely good-looking governance."



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We call on you, as President of UEFA to take another and more careful look at the dangerous human rights risk in Belarus and call on the Executive Committee to make a choice for human rights and democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Ambet Yuson**  
BWI General Secretary

**Dietmar Schaefers**  
BWI Deputy President

CC KNVB, DFB