



**UEFA**  
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*via e-mail*

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**EURO 2020 - Covid situation**

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Dear Mr Čeferin,

On 3 February this year, we had a very successful discussion together during an EPP video conference on the topic of fighting cancer. You made a very impressive statement on how sports and in particular football can help to protect our health. Some developments around the EURO2020 that is currently taking place in many European cities are however, questioning whether health is indeed so important for UEFA. Like many citizens, I enjoy watching the EURO2020 on television and I also agree that with strict measures and a limited capacity of people in a stadium, it is responsible to let spectators attend a stadium. Nonetheless, I think it was already not a good choice to pressure cities like Bilbao or Dublin as they were not ready to accept spectators already weeks ago because they just could not foresee how the pandemic will develop.

I am afraid that UEFA's reaction on the threat of the delta variant and the related decisions may undermine the trust of citizens on UEFA setting the right priorities. It is reported that the British government is about to reduce the maximum capacity at the Wembley stadium for the future matches that will take place there, especially for the final match.

As a medical doctor and health spokesperson for the biggest group in the European Parliament (EPP), I have to underline that it would be completely irresponsible to let the final match take place in Wembley with 40.000 people during a time when the delta variant is on its rise and figures are raising in the UK. In addition, that you intend to lift the rules for quarantine for VIPs is undermining the credibility of UEFA and your commitment to health. If it were even true to move the final from London to Budapest, even though other political considerations would justify boycotting Budapest and because the rules in Budapest are far from being satisfactory to protect against the spread of the virus, this would give a devastating signal. The alternative venues should

not be chosen by UEFA on the basis of where the largest number of spectators are admitted, but on the basis of which stadium or city has the best hygiene concept and health protection is best guaranteed.

You know that professional football benefitted from many privileges in Europe for more than one year now. Many others, such as youth sports, culture, and schools have suffered and are still suffering from restrictions. If you do not put the prevention of Covid-19 higher on your agenda and continue to prioritize the decisions for money and other considerations, you will split the society and lose support from many decision-makers. Therefore, please put health first and take the right decisions.

Kind regards

Peter Liese