

## Media Release

19<sup>th</sup> of January 2011



### **ECA expresses support for European Commission Communication on Sport**

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ECA welcomes the adoption of a Communication on Sport by the European Commission.

With the Lisbon Treaty granting powers to the EU in the area of Sport for the first time, it is important for stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the intentions of the European Commission in developing the European Dimension of Sport over the coming months and years.

The Communication covers a range of issues impacting directly on club football in a manner which is broadly in line with the vision of our organisation. The issues of autonomy, governance, the specific nature of sport, the free movement of players are all approached in a manner which ECA supports.

ECA particularly welcomes the call by the European Commission for governance structures to be democratic, transparent and accountable and the support given in relation to Financial Fair Play rules on which we have worked closely with UEFA in their elaboration.

Commenting on the Communication, ECA Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, stated:

"I welcome EU efforts to support sport stakeholders in tackling the many issues affecting sport in Europe while acknowledging the concept of autonomy. Wherever possible it is important to work alongside the EU and Member States to find ways to overcome obstacles that may exist and to ensure that European football can continue to develop and grow in order to maintain its standing at the top of the game."

Over the last few years, ECA has developed very constructive channels of communication with the EU at all levels and hopes to continue to do so as we work hand in hand in meeting some of the objectives set out in this Communication.

For more information on the European Commission Communication on Sport and a download version of the full paper, please visit [www.ecaeurope.com](http://www.ecaeurope.com).

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