

Turin, 26 March 2020

Dear friends, dear ECA Members,

My thoughts are with you at this time of unprecedented challenge. All our lives are being turned upside down in a manner that none of us could have ever imagined. We are all worried about those closest to us and maintaining a life of relative normality. Our number one priority must be to stay safe, protect our families and loved ones and support our communities.

We are all football executives responsible for the well-being and sustainability of the clubs we manage, which are faced with a real existential threat. As football is now at a standstill, so are our revenue flows on which we are dependent to pay our players, staff and other operating costs. No one is immune and timing is of the essence. Meeting our concerns will be the biggest challenge our game and industry has ever faced.

The efforts and focus of all stakeholders are set towards one clear goal – to alleviate our industry from the damage COVID-19 is reaping on us all whilst doing everything in our power to protect a society under threat. ECA has two clear objectives in the work we are doing: (1) defining realistic strategies to resume playing football at domestic and European levels with public and player health as our central concern and (2) defining systems to help manage club financials in this time of social and economic crisis.

Some important decisions have already been taken including the postponement of both EURO 2020 and the finals of UEFA's Club Competitions. But this was just the start. We are engaging continuously with the relevant stakeholders to shape the most appropriate responses required. At UEFA level, the focus is on factoring the public health, economic and financial challenges clubs are faced with into defining a new possible model for the calendar. Discussions are very active as to what the approach to the UEFA licensing and FFP framework should be in light of the current crisis. At FIFA level, work is centered around player matters with specific consideration on how adaptations to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) can be brought about to account for the impact of these extraordinary circumstances. Discussions with both FIFPro and European Leagues are also taking place aimed at encouraging domestic social partners to discuss solutions to meet specific domestic realities.

The ECA Administration is also working hard on fast flowing lines of communication to ensure that we are listening to you and providing as much information as we can. You should all be receiving a call from one of our team in the hours and days ahead. In case of urgent matters, I encourage you to reach out directly to one of the team.

Dear Members, facing challenges of this scale will require unprecedented effort. Please be assured that at all levels, be they political, technical or administrative, ECA is focusing all its resources in coming up with the right responses and solutions to protect clubs and the game.

Together, through the values that define our sport including solidarity, respect and unity let us channel all our efforts to ensure football's recovery and sustainable well-being.

Stay safe and look after yourselves and your loved ones.

With friendship, affection, determination and solidarity!


Andrea Agnelli
ECA Chairman