



Formello, 28 November 2024

S. S. Lazio S.p.A.

To the Mayor of Amsterdam

Mrs. Femke Halsema

To the President of UEFA

Lawyer Aleksander Čeferin

Subject: UEFA Europa League match Ajax - Lazio on 12 December 2024.

We refer to the above mentioned match and the note sent by the Mayor of Amsterdam on 26/11/2024.

We are formally writing to contest and condemn the disquieting letter signed by the Mayor of Amsterdam, which damages the honour and image of the community we represent.

Even if we understand the particular situation in the Netherlands, a nation that has suffered intolerable violence during the match between Ajax and Maccabi, we are obliged to react to the equally intolerable position taken by the Dutch authorities.

The letter sent to us on 26/11/2024 is characterized by discriminatory and offensive content that cover a substantial difficulty of local authorities in opposing and controlling phenomena of intolerance that have nothing to do with the Club we represent. A circumstance, this one, aggravated by the full publication of the private note (www.amsterdam.nl/bestuur-organisatie/college/burgemeester/persberichten/wedstrijd-ajax-lazio-12-december/) that is provoking various reactions in our local community asking for answers and reactions.

In addition, we would like to point out that the Chairman of the Board of Management, as well as owner of the Club, is a Senator of the Italian Republic with important institutional appointments, including the position of Group Leader of the Extraordinary Commission against racism, anti-Semitism, incitement to hatred and violence (the so-called Commission Segre); in the Supervisory Board of S.S. Lazio there is Prof. Mario Venezia, President of the Shoa Museum Foundation in Rome; Prof. Alberto Gambino, member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), is also a member of S.S. Lazio's bodies.

All the above to highlight how the Company's indicative policy has always been aimed at rejecting all forms of racism through its own institutional bodies that fight against intolerance in various places, national and European.

Be aware that S.S. Lazio S.p.A. will take every action to safeguard the image of the Club, which, we remind you, is listed on the Italian Stock Exchange and is liable to obvious damages, including material and economic ones, resulting from the senseless letter of 26/11/2024.



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Indeed, the public statement that *“S.S. Lazio supporters regularly behave in an intolerable way in Europe, not hesitating to commit crimes. Over the past two years, there have also been several incidents and fights involving S.S. Lazio supporters also in the Netherlands before the matches against AZ Alkmaar and FC Twente. Ending and preventing the disturbing of the public order required substantial police deployment, as well as the creation of risk areas to maintain the security and the issue of special ordinances to face the emergency. This would be no different in Amsterdam”* is not supported by the facts, but shows a general inaccuracy in the management of the current dispute and a poor understanding of the operational scene.

It's good to point out that, last month, during the match between FC Twente and S.S. Lazio played at the City of Enschede, two episodes of very serious media and substantial relevance happened. UEFA had to apply a disciplinary and economic sanction, resulting in the closure of the Twente stadium, for the behaviour of the local supporters against Lazio players who were subjected to racial discrimination. As well as completely unjustifiable was the treatment of the Italian supporters present in the city, who were segregated inside the city hotels both the night before the match as well the night after the event itself, without any prior communication. Families and groups of supporters deprived of their freedom in the name of maintaining an apparent security of the city's infrastructure (?!). Episodes of absolute gravity that witness the criticalities that affect the Dutch society and the authorities called to manage the public order. Our reaction was clear support for the Dutch club FC Twente, also by exchanging private correspondence, in order to enter into alliances and relationships aimed at fighting and preventing phenomena such as those increasingly perpetrated in the Netherlands.

The measures taken by the Dutch authorities do not meet the most elementary legal concepts applicable within the European Union and show, once again, the inadequate organisation in terms of *safety & security* that every civilised nation is called to implement where private clubs or associations are expected to participate in international level competitions such as the UEFA Europa League.

UEFA itself imposes strict and detailed structural obligations on clubs, which can be translated into obvious economic efforts, to normalise, standardise and manage football events that, by themselves, carry within them, far-reaching criticalities and complexities. We are convinced that only through the integration and the provision of appropriate structural measures, the provocations associated with sports events and the resonance they generate can be faced. The key is certainly not segregation, prohibition or, as in your badly case, the offense of the dignity of communities.

The late action taken by the authorities implies, at their charge, the obligation to compensate Lazio fans who organised themselves, on time and according to the directives issued by the hosting club, to attend the event. First of all, it is clear that the same authorities will have to take charge, directly or through commercial channels, of the reimbursement of the sums withheld by the city hotels for the rooms rented and indemnify the supporters for the consequent non-occupation of the same facilities.



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It is also necessary to negotiate with the airlines flying to Amsterdam in order to have the sums paid by the Lazio supporters returned.

The damage caused will be quantified and forwarded to the competent authorities, given that, in addition to the cost of the stadium ticket, about three thousand supporters have purchased flights and rented hotel rooms in the Dutch capital. It is therefore necessary to set up a contact point where Lazio fans' requests for reimbursement will be promptly received and settled.

On our part, we will take all necessary actions to ensure that Lazio supporters do not travel to Amsterdam and thus reduce the potential danger of incidents, which, in light of the Public Authority's untimely decision, it is likely to be reinforced and multiplied.

We cannot exclude the possibility that groups of supporters, organised and not, will nevertheless decide to leave for Amsterdam and, for them, we require a proper reception and dignified treatment in the city streets.

The late decision inevitably brings with it effects that, even of a sporting nature, will condition the football match. We remember that two of the most successful teams in the UEFA Europe League competition are fronting each other, and that they are playing much of their future path precisely in this particular match. In addition to the image damage that affects an event that, by its very nature, exalts and includes all the sports communities that base their activities not on top-level economic sports business, but on the culture of training and territorial integration.

Accordingly, we therefore ask you to inform us how you mean to initiate the information exchange process, as well as the procedure of reimbursement of the sums paid by Lazio supporters, no later than five days from the receipt of this letter. In default of this, we will be obliged to take the appropriate compensation actions in all the places deemed competent.

S.S. Lazio S.p.A.
Il Presidente
Dr. Claudio Lotito