



**To:**

Office of the Mayor of the City of Amsterdam

**For the attention of:**

Femke Halsema, Mayor of Amsterdam

Your reference	Your correspondence of 04 December 2024	Our reference F/mac	Date 10 December 2024
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Dear Mayor Halsema,

We have received and reviewed your correspondence of 4 December, and we are compelled to respond to several points raised in your letter.

We are surprised by the misunderstandings and the misrepresentation of the content of our letter, which has led to judgements harmful to UEFA's reputation that we deeply regret.

It has never been our intention to affirm that our high-risk categorisation is a formality, which in fact you can find nowhere in the letter, but rather the opposite as it is "*...associated with the categorisation of **numerous** fixtures to which **special attention must be paid in terms of safety and security** in collaboration with the participating clubs and an appointed UEFA security officer*". It is abundantly obvious that it means diligence in the preparation of matches applied to many cases where risk profiles of various types are identified and that, as stated, "*...this does not **inherently** entail risks associated with a given set of supporters*". We probably need to remind you that the UEFA high-risk categorisation stood out right at the beginning of your letter, as the pre-condition of your decision. We also need to stress once more that such rating is attributed to "*numerous*" fixtures in respect of which no restrictive decision is issued by public authorities.

Unfortunately, from this gross misunderstanding you drew the conclusion that UEFA underestimates racism and extremism, substantially betraying its social commitments, and did not disdain to turn it into a moral lecture. You are quite obviously not aware of the high number of heavy disciplinary sanctions, including travel bans, partial and full stadium closures inflicted by UEFA for violence, racism and discrimination to clubs and national associations, within the boundaries and the jurisdiction of the disciplinary powers of a sports organisation. For the avoidance of doubt, UEFA firmly and vehemently rejects any form of violence, racism and discrimination and does its utmost, with education, prevention and repression, to ensure that they find no place in the game.

We reinstate the humble remark contained in our first letter, that those "*objectionable behaviours*" which you blame on "*some Lazio fans*" and form the basis for your decision were known at the time of the draw, but despite this no warning was issued since then to stall the transfer of tickets from Ajax to the visiting

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club, with the result that thousands of fans – in vast majority, you will agree, with no guilt in their past - were put in condition to buy not only match tickets but also travel and accommodation arrangements. You have not substantiated which incidents on the part of Lazio supporters since the release of the match calendar on 31 August, and particularly in the last month, have necessitated such a late decision.

We hope this letter clarifies our position. We hope that the match can take place this week without any disturbances.

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**

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Giorgio Marchetti  
Deputy General Secretary