



TO THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF AMSTERDAM

For the attention of
Ms. Femke Halsema

CC: Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB), UEFA, AFC Ajax, S.S. Lazio

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference	Date
		DAL/KNI	28 November 2024

UEFA Europa League 2024/25 – League Phase MD6 – AFC Ajax (NED) vs. S.S. Lazio (ITA) – 12 December 2024 (21:00 CET)

Dear Madam Mayor,

With reference to your letter dated 22 and your email of 28 November 2024, and following the meeting which took place yesterday 27 November 2024 online in the presence of representatives of the Amsterdam mayoral office, Police, UEFA, AFC Ajax and S.S. Lazio – we hereby write to you to express our disappointment with the decision to ban the attendance of visiting team supporters considering that, at the time of writing, approximately 3'000 tickets have already been sold to these supporters with flights and accommodation arrangements already made.

While we appreciate the unrest which has recently befallen the city of Amsterdam, we must question the grounds on which such a draconian measure has been taken at such a late stage. It would appear that the justification for this decision has been primarily based on generalisations of the visiting team instead of risk assessment-based intelligence, to suggest that the travelling supporters in question would cause the alleged disruptions to public order. We simply observe that the reasons you gathered as background for the decision, even if they were correctly assumed by you, constitute nothing new which was unheard of since the time of the draw which assigned Lazio as a visiting team of Ajax. Nevertheless, no action was taken and all match operations, including ticketing operations for visiting fans, were carried out normally by the home club.

Furthermore, despite UEFA being referenced as a source of information in your letter, UEFA has never been formally consulted at any point prior to the communication of the decision. While the match has indeed been classified as high-risk by UEFA, please note that this is a standard practice 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. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not inherently entail risks associated with a given set of supporters.

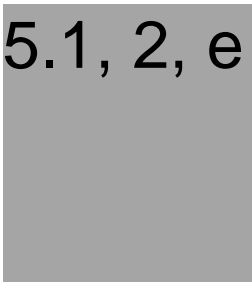
Finally, and as alluded to during yesterday's meeting, while the decision aims to prevent disruptions to public order, the unfortunate timing of your decision and the absence of preliminary warnings to Ajax mean that in all likelihood many Lazio fans will in any case travel to the city of Amsterdam regardless of the stadium ban. The latest intelligence indicates that approximately 1'500 fans of the visiting team have made arrangements to stay in the city through the weekend. We presume this scenario has also been duly considered by the competent authorities but fail to understand in which way the banning decision would actually resort to a solution rather than a worsening of the problem envisaged by you.

Based on the above, we kindly urge the competent authorities to reassess the full scope of the matter.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Yours faithfully,

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Giorgio Marchetti
Deputy General Secretary