



UEFA

Retouradres: Postbus 202, 1000 AE Amsterdam

Datum 4 december 2024
Kopie aan S.S. Lazio, KNVB, FC Ajax
Onderwerp Response to your letter of 28-11-2024, to the mayor of Amsterdam (your reference DAL/KNL)

Dear Mr. Marchetti,

With this letter we respond to your letter of November 28. The decision of the Mayor, the chief public prosecutor and police chief of Amsterdam not to allow S.S. Lazio supporters in the stadium at the match against Ajax on December 12, 2024 is based on (European) information and experiences of the police. This decision is therefore based on the "risk assessment based intelligence" to which you refer in your letter. We have explained that the impact and severity of the events that took place in our city surrounding the Ajax match against Maccabi Tel Aviv on November 7 and 8 were taken into account in this decision.

Within this context, the local authorities decided to use my authority as mayor of Amsterdam to impose regulations on the match and not to allow an away crowd. This measure is taken in the interest of public order and safety, the prevention of disorder and harmful inconvenience to spectators and other persons. UEFA was indeed not part of the decision, it was a decision by the local authority in Amsterdam.

Preparations for European high-risk football matches in Amsterdam never start immediately after the draw. The most current context is taken into account in any conditions that are imposed. Consider the behavior of the supporters of clubs at home and abroad, the course of other recent matches in Amsterdam and recent events in the field of public order and safety in the city as a whole.

We are surprised that you describe your own "high-risk classification" for this match as a "standard practice" or formality, thereby suggesting that this would be a qualification for you with no further significance. You thereby fail to demonstrate that you are aware of the seriousness and (safety-) effects of the right-wing extremist and racist expressions and behavior of a part of the Lazio supporters, with which they have regularly manifested themselves in Europe in recent years. You thereby place all responsibility for this objectionable behavior in the public domain. We cannot reconcile this with your 'say no to racism' campaign of recent years, in which you emphasize that racism, discrimination and intolerance have no place in football. We do agree on that, which for the authorities in Amsterdam also entails the responsibility to act in a normative manner against those in football who express racist, antisemitic and discriminatory sentiments through songs and (illegal) symbols,

and thus exclude and discriminate against others, and make people or communities feel unsafe.

As a Union of European Football Associations and runner of some of the best and largest football competitions in the world, you also have a social function and responsibility as far as we are concerned. Especially because, as UEFA, you also emphasize that *"football is more than a game"* and *"you believe that football can be a force for good. For every player, for every fan, for every community"*.

The substantiation of the decision was explained in detail in the written decision you received earlier and in a meeting on the 27th of November with a UEFA delegation, clubs and KNVB. Within the current context, in which scarce police capacity is needed to restore and maintain peace and order in the city after the serious disorder surrounding the previous European match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv, we decided to use the authority which I, as mayor, have to impose regulations on the match and not allow an away crowd. This measure is based on police information about the extreme right-wing signature of some of the Lazio supporters and was taken in the interest of public order and safety, the prevention of disorder and serious inconvenience to spectators and other people. There is no reason to reconsider the decision of November 28th.

We realize that this is a decision with the necessary consequences and that this decision is a disappointment for the players, clubs and supporters.

You draw attention to the scenario that S.S. Lazio supporters will travel to Amsterdam. Obviously, we take this scenario into account and prepare ourselves optimally. We will prepare appropriate measures to prevent any public order disturbances as a result of the presence of S.S. Lazio supporters in our city. We trust that UEFA and S.S. Lazio will take their responsibility and, bearing in mind the safety of supporters and public order and security in the city, support the decision of the local authority and will do everything in their power to prevent supporters of the club still travel to Amsterdam.

Yours faithfully,
On behalf of the safety partners,

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Femke Halsema,
Mayor of Amsterdam