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Michel Platini
UEFA President
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15th October 2009

**Re: racism at Apoel Nicosia v Chelsea
UEFA Champions League match, 30 September 2009**

I am writing to you again for the second time as new evidence has been presented to us of further racist activity at the above mentioned game. The attached pamphlet, titled "30 years of Apoel Nicosia, 1979-2009", was sent to us by Chelsea fans that attended the game, informing us that a copy had been left on every seat allocated for away supporters. As you can see, a large part of the leaflet is devoted to a racist diatribe against Turks.

In our first communication, Embargoed!, along with other Turkish Cypriot groups, complained about the way Apoel Nicosia allowed their stadium to be used as a platform to promote xenophobic messages that have offended thousands of Turkish Cypriots around the world. As can be plainly seen on TV footage, banners with 4 feet high letters stating 'Cyprus is Greek' in multiple languages were hung on advertising hoardings around the pitch. Such prominent banners suggested this was a co-ordinated political demonstration involving the club itself.

We understand that UEFA have now added this as a third charge against Apoel Nicosia - the second charge relating to racially insulting behaviour following complaints that a female UEFA official was targeted with monkey-chants. We would like UEFA to add a fourth charge of racism against Apoel for allowing this offensive leaflet to be distributed in their grounds.

A quick read of this crude pamphlet, produced by the official Apoel supporters club, shows it to be a grossly inaccurate portrayal of the Cyprus conflict, exaggerating Greek Cypriot suffering while making no mention about the war crimes against Turkish Cypriots. The terms and facts used are calculated to create a terrible impression of Turks as "barbarians" and as such are tantamount to inciting racial hatred.

We are shocked and dismayed that UEFA officials permitted the club to distribute such vile racist propaganda during a Champions League match. The fact that the club has allowed banners with racist slogans and now this leaflet in their stadium makes us believe Apoel Nicosia actually set out to use the match for propaganda reasons. They are clearly happy to perpetuate the hatred of Turks and completely indifferent to the offense caused to Turks and Turkish Cypriots.



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Given these circumstances, we trust UEFA will impose the toughest sanctions on the club. Apoel and its supporters must understand racism and intolerance have no place in football. I would like to add that Embargoed! has been contacted by many Greek Cypriots who are also shocked and saddened by these developments and want UEFA to “throw the book at Apoel” as they know the club’s actions reflect badly on other South Cyprus clubs and Greek Cypriots in general who are aware the conflict affected both communities and detest such racist activity.

We will be raising this with FARE [Football Against Racism in Europe], Kick it Out, the English Football Association, Chelsea Football Club and the relevant government departments both in the United Kingdom and in the European Union. We would also like to formally request that a meeting is convened between UEFA officials and Embargoed! to discuss these issues in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Fevzi Hussein
Chairperson, Embargoed!

cc. Piara Power, Director of FARE [Football Against Racism in Europe]
David Milliband, UK Foreign Minister
Jane Bateman, Head of International Relations English Football Association
Ged Grebby, National Co-ordinator for Show Racism the Red Card
Kemal Koprulu, TRNC London Representative
Yigit Alpogan, Turkish Ambassador to UK

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