



Mircea Sandu
President
Romanian Football Federation
House of Football
Str. Serg. Serbanica Vasile 12
BUCHAREST 022186

Nyon, 3 October 2012

Dear Mr Sandu,

As you know, last Monday (24 September) over 30,000 people at the Romanian National Arena, joined by millions on TV, watched the Romanian First Division match between FC Steaua București and FC Rapid București.

We have been informed about some serious incidents of racism that took place at the match, many of them with banners and chants that referred in the most inhumane way to Roma communities.

For the record, I understand the racist acts included the following:

1. Chants expressing hate against gypsies;
2. A banner on prominent display, including one that read "Respect Eugen Grigore" (we are reliably informed that Eugen Grigore is the convicted murderer of 24 Roma in 1970);
3. Provocative action from individuals close to Steaua before and after the match, including Gigi Becali, who expressed confidence in his team by describing the opposition in reference to the Roma when he said that "they drown just before reaching the shore". We are aware that other officials were seen to be joining in the abuse as they stood pitchside and after the match.

It appears that in recent years many games between the two teams above have been marred by racist incidents, but the interactions that we have seen are beyond any reasonable rivalry in our sport. The dangers of such acts are many. The country would want to avoid the reputational damage that would arise from Romania being seen as out of step with the rest of European football and of UEFA being forced into severe action against Romanian clubs if they exhibit such practices in our

competitions.

European football is aware of UEFA's stance on racism in football and my personal position. Our partners in the fight against discrimination, the FARE network, have informed us of the positive action that you have already taken on this matter. We support this, and urge you to continue to develop solutions to tackle this problem.

I hope that the clubs and the Romanian Professional League can follow your lead and address these issues as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

U E F A

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Platini', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Michel Platini
President