**UEFA**

Nyon

**Mr Theodore Theodoridis**

**General Secretary**

Belgrade, 20th June 2024

Dear Mr Theodoridis,

Football Association of Serbia are addressing you regarding the events at yesterday’s EURO 2024 Final Tournament match between the national teams of Croatia and Albania (group stage, Group B, Hamburg, 19.06.2024), when a shameful joint chanting of the both teams fans occurred, and which was directed against the Serbian nation as a whole.

As you have probably been informed, in the period from 58th minutes and 28 second to 58th minutes and 50 seconds of the match, Croatian and Albanian fans shouted “Kill, kill the Serb!” together. Those were not only individuals among the fans, but a large number of supporters of these national teams, and their behaviour was not sanctioned at that moment, in accordance with UEFA regulations that are clear, as are the very actions of the match officials in those situations.

This kind of behaviour is unacceptable in any situation, and especially at a major sporting event like this one, watched all over Europe and the world. Instead of a football stadium being a place where one will cheer their own teams and promote a sports and fair atmosphere, absolutely unacceptable behaviour, impossible to justify in any way was seen at this match. According to the information we have, after the final whistle of the match and in front of the stand with Albanians fans, one player of the Albanian team used a megaphone to shout the same cry and thus “ignited” the crowd.

Football Association of Serbia believe that the match should have been stopped and the “three steps” procedure should have been applied at the moment when the fans of both teams started with the mentioned chanting. This is strictly provided for by UEFA regulations, “Guidelines for Match Officials in cases of Racist Behavior in Football Stadiums”, and we are surprised it was not applied by the relevant UEFA match officials. That rule was properly applied in cases of much lower intensity, so we are all the more surprised it was not applied at this match.

Football Association of Serbia believe that UEFA disciplinary bodies will react in proper manner and sanction this behaviour of fans of both the teams. Such an insult of a nation with chanting that they should be killed has not been seen at sports events for a long time. As citizens of the Republic of Serbia, as sports and football workers firmly commited to the implementation of universal sports principles and fair play, we are deeply hurt by the events of this match. Considering that this kind of rampage of a large number of fans (almost all of them) and which cannot be called behaviour at all, is not in accordance either with UEFA regulations or basic human behaviour, we ask you to urgently and severely sanction the responsible ones for the mentioned events and ensure normal staging of the matches. Please let us remind you that this kind of rampage, hatred and racis are everything your organization is declaratively fighting against.

The game of football, especially at an event like the European Championship, should be something that unites individuals, states, nations, and not a tool that will be used for some purposes completely opposite to the ideas that football should represent because, as we see, the football game has long since gone beyond the boundaries of a sport as such.

We wish UEFA and the Tournament organizers a successful continuation of EURO 2024 and we hope that such events will not happen again at stadiums in Germany.

Sincerely yours,

**Jovan Šurbatović**

**General Secretary**