



Press Kit

Press Conference of the 17th of June 2022

LaLiga has decided to initiate a series of unprecedented legal initiatives in France and before the European institutions in order to protect the European football ecosystem.

Its aim is to put an end to the distortions of competition resulting from interventions of actors without economic imperatives within the various football markets, which create major imbalances within European and national competitions, produce a disaffection of the citizenry and supporters and affect the fundamental principles of our legal system.

For the first time, an offensive will be carried out in civil, administrative and European law in order to prevent any evasive maneuver on the part of the targeted actors.

Modalities

LaLiga has already filed complaints before the UEFA against the Paris Saint Germain and Manchester City. They follow information requests from UEFA's control bodies against PSG, which are a preliminary step before the opening of infringement proceedings.

The first cases, in France will be filed by next week. The Minister of Sports will be requested to abrogate the approval decisions taken by the Ligue de Football Professionnel LFP regarding any contract signed by the Paris Saint Germain after the 25th of June 2021, including that of MBappé. The LFP will be asked to initiate an exceptional control of the PSG's accounts via the DNCG.

It should be recalled, at this stage, that the contract's approval proceedings (homologation) by La Ligue de Football Professionnel are subordinated to the analysis of the accounts of professional football clubs, and their compliance with both criteria established by the DNCG regulations and the criteria established by the UEFA.

Finally, proceedings within the European Union will be initiated, with a prior referral to the Commission, so that the rules and fundamental principles of competition law are finally respected within the various markets correlated to European football and accompanied by civil proceedings in France.

The law

La Ligue de football Professionnel (LFP) has failed to effectively control the Paris Saint Germain's accounts by allowing, via the DNCG, the approval (homologation) of contracts signed by the club after the 25th of June 2021, despite the lack of compliance from Paris Saint

Germain with the criteria set out in the LFP and DNCG regulations and with those laid down by the UEFA. This situation causes significant and direct damage to European football.

This lack of control produces a distortion of competition contrary to the European treaties.

The Paris Saint Germain and its leaders have aggravated this state of affairs by presenting distorted accounting statements, deliberately fanciful budget forecast and by disguising the “tied party” system implemented with its sponsors in order to obtain the validation of European and national authorities. Using the exemptions provided due to the health crisis and adjustment periods provided for by the authorities, PSG implemented an economic policy that went against all the principles and rules laid down by the UEFA – in agreement and under the impetus of the European Commission – and the LFP, making it illusory for the situation to be re-established within the deadlines set by said authorities.

This situation has affected trade between Member States, has caused significant damage to European football through widespread inflation impacting the professional football market, and has undermined the principles of sporting fairness enshrined in the European treaties.

As a result, administrative and civil proceedings will be initiated in France in order to obtain a full, effective and immediate application of the principles and treaties of the European Union as well as of competition law ; of French laws and of the LFP and DNCG regulations themselves ; by ensuring an effective control of the Paris Saint Germain’s accounts ; as well as the implementation of precautionary measures provided for by the various regulations in order to ensure the preservation of the applicant’s interests.

At the European Union level, the European Commission will be notified of regulatory distortions, antitrust infractions, state aid and cartels in the various football markets.

Our aim is to put an end to the systemic distortion that has been imposed on European football, the first victim of which are the football fans and citizens.

The firm

Juan Branco holds a PhD in law and is a lawyer at the Paris Court of appeals. After attending the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Sciences Po and the Sorbonne, he became a *Senior Research Fellow* at the Max Planck Institute for International Procedural Law, *visiting lecturer* at Yale University and *visiting scholar* at its Law School. After working at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the International Criminal Court, he represented Julian Assange, Wikileaks, Piotr Pavlenski, Jean-Luc Mélenchon as well as numerous Yellow vests, obtaining victories in their defence before the criminal courts against Emmanuel Macron and several of his ministers.

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