



Sent by email

Members of the European Parliament
Signatories of the open letter to FIFA
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels
Belgium

Zurich, 05 June 2018

Reply to the open letter to FIFA on the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

We would first like to thank you for your letter and for sharing with us your concerns regarding the upcoming 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

As the world governing body of football, FIFA is committed to ensuring the successful delivery of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. We are convinced that, through football, particularly the FIFA World Cup and its international spotlight, we can achieve positive change. As you are aware of, the 2018 FIFA World Cup was awarded to Russia in 2010. Since then and culminating in the past couple of years, great efforts have been made to ensure that the planning and delivery of the event enhances the positive impact of the event on people, the economy and society and at the same time lessens the negative impact on the environment.

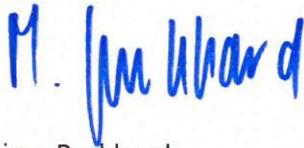
To name a few examples in this regard, significant progress has been made in areas such as the protection of human rights – and in particular labour rights – through the implementation of a decent work monitoring system that has performed joint inspections in construction sites in cooperation, among others, with the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI). Also the launching of a complaints mechanism during the World Cup for human rights defenders and media representatives – a pioneering tool in this context – that ensures anonymity and a follow up on cases relevant to FIFA's activities.

Adding to the above, in the area of promoting diversity and anti-discrimination, FIFA will deploy anti-discrimination match observers in all 64 matches of the World Cup and will implement a three – step procedure in case of discriminatory incidents, where the referees have the authority to stop the match, suspend it, if the discriminatory behaviour does not cease, and finally decide to abandon it.

The FIFA World Cup is able to promote dialogue and unite nations and fans from all over the world in a spirit of fair play and respect. Of course it is up to each country independently to decide on their diplomatic representation, however, we believe in the amazing reach sports and football in particular has to transform lives, break down barriers and inspire communities for positive change.

Yours sincerely,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Burkhard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Myriam Burkhard
Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs