



Member of the European Parliament

Open letter

To: FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association)

Cc: Mr Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA

*The undersigning Members of the European Parliament,*

Having regard to:

- the type of behaviour of the Russian Federation on the international arena (including, but not limited to actions in Georgia, Crimea, Ukraine, Syria),
- the recent attack against the Skripals in Salisbury,
- the fact that some Russian oligarchs close to Mr Putin have been benefiting from the construction of stadiums in preparation for the 2018 FIFA world cup, thus undermining the recent sanctions against the Russian Federation,

1. Note that England and Iceland have decided to diplomatically boycott the 2018 FIFA World Cup to be held in Russia;
2. Call on FIFA to urgently reconsider its decision, and to promptly change the host country for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, moving it to the UK or Iceland for example; especially considering that the UK would be able to adequately react at such short notice since it already has the necessary infrastructure (such as stadiums, hotels, and transport networks), and does not have the democratic deficit which currently afflicts the Russian Federation;
3. Kindly ask FIFA President Mr Infantino to forward this letter to all of the National Football Associations which are members of FIFA, to initiate the urgent necessary procedures.

Kind regards,

Indrek Tarand, MEP  
Helga Trüpel, MEP  
Benedek Jávor, MEP  
Antanas Guoga, MEP  
Petras Auštrevičius, MEP  
Hans-Olaf Henkel, MEP  
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, MEP