EUROPEAN LEAGUES

ANNUAL REPORT
2025/26





ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2025/26

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1. FOREWORD



Claudius Schäfer
President

Dear Member Leagues, Dear friends,

I am delighted to be writing this foreword as we reflect on the work European Leagues and our member leagues have undertaken over the past 18 months.

It has been a particularly active period for European football. The game continues to evolve at a remarkable pace, bringing new opportunities but also important questions about how football is organised, governed and developed for the future. Against this backdrop, European Leagues has remained active and engaged across a wide range of areas, working to safeguard the sustainable future and well-being of domestic professional football and the wider football ecosystem.

Our role is to ensure that the interests and perspectives of our member leagues are heard and carry weight when decisions are being taken that can shape the future of our game. This means engaging with stakeholders, contributing to the discussions taking place across European football and, above all, making the case for strong and sustainable domestic competitions. It is also about ensuring that leagues of all sizes and from every part of Europe have a collective voice.

Our well-established governance structure enables that voice to be heard. The different bodies and platforms within European Leagues allow our members to contribute, exchange experiences and help shape our priorities. This collective approach remains one of our organisation's greatest strengths.

One development I am particularly proud of has been the expansion of our membership to include women's leagues as full members of European Leagues. It was with a sense of pride and purpose that we welcomed 14 new members at our Extraordinary General Assembly in June. Their arrival is an important step forward for our organisation and reflects the growing importance and ambition of the professional women's game across Europe. I look forward to working closely with our Women's Platform as we continue to strengthen the interests and development of the professional game across our countries.

None of this work would be possible without the commitment of our members, our Board and our dedicated and reinforced Administration. I would like to thank them all for their energy, expertise and commitment, and above all thank you, our member leagues, for your continued trust and support. It is this collective commitment that enables European Leagues to speak with a strong and credible voice.

As you read through this report, I hope you will see not only the breadth of our work, but also the value of coming together as European Leagues.

Domestic football remains the foundation of the European game: it is where clubs and communities connect, where players develop and where generations of supporters experience the game week after week. Protecting and strengthening that foundation is essential to the future of football as a whole.

At a time of continued evolution in football and its governance, the role of European Leagues remains as important as ever. We have a responsibility to ensure that the traditions, identity and essential role of domestic football remain at the heart of the European game, while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

I invite you all to read through this report and look forward to continuing this work together and connecting with you in person very soon.

Claudius Schäfer

2.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE



ALBERTO COLOMBO

General Secretary

54 League members

15 Women's football members

34 Countries represented

89 Professional Divisions

1,320 Professional clubs

The 2025/26 season marked the beginning of a new era for European Leagues.

It saw the election of a new 13-member Board of Directors under the presidency of Claudius Schäfer, CEO of the Swiss Football League, the appointment of Alberto Colombo as new General Secretary, and the historic integration of women's professional leagues through the creation of the European Leagues Women's Platform and its inclusion in the Association's governance structures.

> **European Leagues now brings together 54 member leagues across 34 countries, representing 89 professional divisions and over 1,300 clubs.**

At our Annual General Assembly in Sofia, the European Leagues adopted their biannual **Strategic Priorities** with focus on five main pillars.

1. **Tackling Growing Polarisation**
2. **Reinforcing Football Governance**
3. **Fighting Piracy**
4. **Strengthening Social Dialogue**
5. **Securing the European Sport Model's Future**

It is within this context that alongside organisational growth, the season was marked by influential advocacy activities in these strategic areas. The Administration performed thorough analyses on the effects of international competitions on the domestic ecosystem, providing members with evidence-based insights into how calendar, media rights, and competitive balance are under growing pressure due to the ongoing expansion of international football. These reports became a cornerstone of the Association's advocacy efforts and were instrumental to provide our leadership with clear directions for upcoming key discussions and negotiations on the financial distribution of international club competitions and the future of the international calendar both in Europe and at global level.

When it comes to Governance matters, on multiple occasions during the season, the leagues reiterated **their call for a comprehensive reform of FIFA's Governance** to ensure that domestic leagues, clubs and players have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting the football calendar and their domestic competitions. Recent developments at FIFA have highlighted the systemic governance concerns that led our Association to lodge a formal **Complaint to the European Commission, against FIFA, on the Governance framework related to the International Calendar**. The Complaint's scope was extended to the Women's International calendar at the end of summer 2026.

Representing the common interests of employers in the professional football social dialogue remains one of the core activities of league organisations. To this aim, the European Leagues reinforced its commitment to the workplan of the European Social Dialogue in cooperation with stakeholders and the European Commission, advancing collective work on the Transfer System, Occupational Health & Safety and on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion practices in the professional game, while supporting member leagues on social dialogue related labour matters at national level.

In parallel, European Leagues maintained active engagement with the European Union on key regulatory and policy matters affecting professional football. This included **advocating for more effective legislative action to combat the piracy of live sports content and protect the value of media rights, as well as contributing to discussions on the implementation of the EU's anti-money laundering framework** within professional football. The Association also provided input into relevant European Parliament and European Commission reports and

COMPETITIVE BALANCE COST CONTROL
CALENDAR PROTECTION FIGHT PIRACY
GOOD GOVERNANCE SOCIAL DIALOGUE
EUROPEAN SPORT MODEL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

consultations on the future of the European Sport Model, ensuring that the interests of domestic leagues remained reflected in the evolving EU policy framework.

Beyond governance and advocacy, European Leagues continued to expand its **Member Services.** The Association delivered its annual League Benchmark Report in cooperation with the World Leagues Association, produced several bespoke research reports, responded to dozens of benchmarking requests from members on all areas of the game while further enhancing access to intelligence and tools through the Member Services Dashboard, European Players Platform, and UCC Simulator.

Among the season's key initiatives, European Leagues' newly established Sustainability Expert Group strengthened cooperation among league sustainability specialists and with UEFA. This collaboration contributed to the launch of the first joint European Leagues/UEFA Football Event Sustainability Manual, providing practical tools for leagues, clubs and national associations to embed environmental and social responsibility into their operations. It also reinforced the strategic role of leagues in translating European football's sustainability ambitions into coordinated and measurable action at domestic level.

The Administration also strengthened cooperation on Stadia, Safety & Security, bringing together league experts to exchange operational expertise and best practices, including during the annual field visit to one of our member leagues with full focus on match operations. The Association also actively contributes to the Saint-Denis Convention, the Council of Europe's internationally binding framework promoting an integrated approach to safety, security and service at football matches and other sporting events, ensuring that the experience and perspective of professional leagues are taken into considerations by policy makers.

Finally, the launch of Business Development 2.0 redefined the future direction of European Leagues' business activities while establishing a framework for future commercial growth. In this context, the Administration recently kicked off a new edition of its ELEVATE educational programme targeting and gathering commercial managers from across our membership.

Together, these activities reflect a season of growth and enhanced commitment to protect our member leagues in a fast-changing environment. Through stronger representation, evidence-based advocacy, enhanced member services, and deeper stakeholder engagement, European Leagues aims at reinforcing the role of domestic competitions as the foundation of European football and strengthened its position to address the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Looking ahead to the 2026/27 season, we will build on the foundations laid during this period of organisational renewal and strategic development.

The focus will be on addressing the growing financial polarisation in European football and safeguarding the sustainability and competitiveness of domestic competitions, objectives firmly embedded in our mission statement. The ongoing season will also be a crucial one for the future governance of the game, requiring continued and coordinated engagement with football stakeholders and European institutions.

Domestic leagues have a key role in shaping the reform process, and we will work to ensure that the voice and interests of every member league are heard and represented.

As the challenges facing domestic competitions continue to evolve, European Leagues will remain committed to safeguarding their interests, reinforcing their central role in the European football ecosystem, and ensuring that their collective voice continues to shape the future of the game.



Alberto Colombo

3.

THE EUROPEAN LEAGUES

3.1 Members

3.2 The European Leagues Expansion

3.3 Representativeness

3.4 Total Number of Clubs

3.1 Members

2005

- **Österreichische Fußball Bundesliga** — (AUT) Austria
- **Pro League** — (BEL) Belgium
- **Divisionsforeningen** — (DEN) Denmark
- **Premier League** — (ENG) England
- **LALIGA** — (ESP) Spain
- **The Finnish Football League Association Veikkausliiga** — (FIN) Finland
- **Ligue de Football Professionnel** — (FRA) France
- **Bundesliga** — (GER) Germany

2006

- **English Football League** — (ENG) England

2007

- **Polish Professional Football League Ekstraklasa** — (POL) Poland

2008

- **Super League Greece** — (GRE) Greece
- **Lega Serie A** — (ITA) Italy
- **Eredivisie CV** — (NED) Netherlands
- **Liga Portugal** — (POR) Portugal
- **Scottish Professional Football League** — (SCO) Scotland
- **Föreningen Svensk Elitfotboll** — (SWE) Sweden
- **Swiss Football League** — (SUI) Switzerland

2009

- **Norsk Toppfotball** — (NOR) Norway
- **Serie C** — (ITA) Italy

2010

- **Ukrainian Premier League** — (UKR) Ukraine
- **Serbian Super Liga** — (SRB) Serbia
- **Turkish Union of Clubs** — (TUR) Türkiye

2011

- **Lega Serie B** — (ITA) Italy

2013

- **Israeli Professional Football Leagues** — (ISR) Israel
- **Azerbaijan Professional Football League** — (AZE) Azerbaijan

2014

- **Liga Profesionista de Fotbal** — (ROU) Romania

2015

- **Qazaqstan Football League** — (KAZ) Kazakhstan

2018

- **Ligová Fotbalová Asociace** — (CZE) Czech Republic
- **Futbola Virsliga** — (LAT) Latvia

2019

- **Northern Ireland Football League** — (NIL) Northern Ireland

2021

- **Íslenskur Toppfótbolti** — (ISL) Iceland
- **Coöperatie Eerste Divisie U.A.** — (NED) Netherlands
- **Deutscher Fußball-Bund e.V.** — (GER) Germany

2022

- **Liga Profesioniste e Futbollit** — (ALB) Albania
- **Bulgarian Professional Football League** — (BUL) Bulgaria
- **Malta Premier League** — (MLT) Malta
- **Unia Ligovych Klubov** — (SVK) Slovakia
- **League of Ireland** — (IRL) Ireland

2023

- **Football Association of Wales** — (WAL) Wales

2026

- **Pro League – Women's Super League** — (BEL) Belgium
- **Ligaforbundet** — (DEN) Denmark
- **WSL Football** — (ENG) England
- **Liga F** — (ESP) Spain
- **Icelandic Topfootball Besta deild kvenna** — (ISL) Iceland
- **Scottish Women's Premier League** — (SCO) Scotland
- **Elitfotboll Dam** — (SWE) Sweden
- **Nothern Ireland Football League Women's Premiership** — (NIL) Northern Ireland
- **Toppfotball Kvinner** — (NOR) Norway
- **Ligue Féminine de Football Professionnel** — (FRA) France
- **Frauen-Bundesliga** — (GER) Germany
- **League of Ireland Women's Premier Division** — (IRL) Ireland
- **Serie A Women** — (ITA) Italy
- **Vrouwen Eredivisie** — (NED) Netherlands
- **Adran Premier** — (WAL) Wales

Members League
Founding Members
Associate Members
Women's League Members
Women's League Associate Members

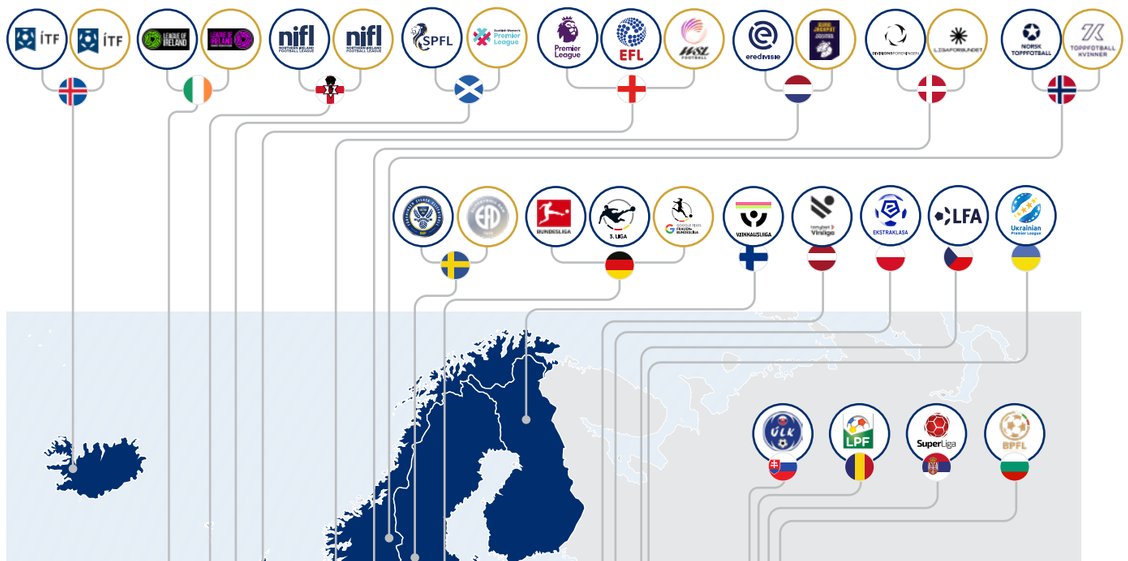
3.2 The European Leagues Expansion

European Leagues on 6 June 2005 (Foundation)



European Leagues today (2026)

Men's Leagues Women's Leagues



3.3 Representativeness



MEN

European Leagues members: **39**

Countries represented: **34**

EU Member States represented: **20**

Football divisions: **65**
(including 34 first tiers, 22 second tiers, 7 third tiers, and 2 fourth tiers)

Professional football clubs: **1050**
(including 506 first-tier clubs and 544 non-first-tier clubs)

WOMEN

European Leagues members: **15**

Countries represented: **15**

EU Member States represented: **9**

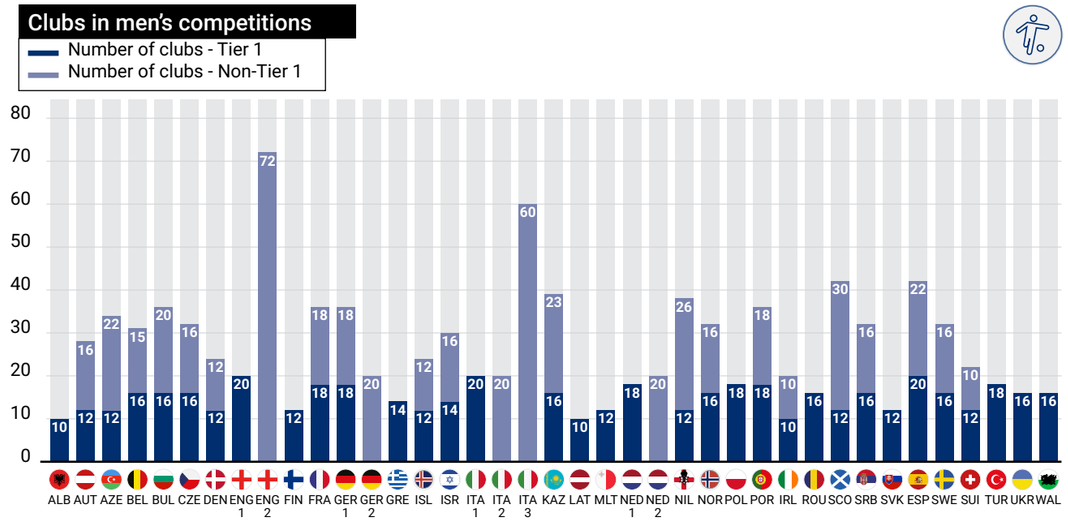
Football divisions: **24**
(including 15 first tiers, 8 second tiers, and 1 third tier)

Professional football clubs: **270**
(including 170 first-tier clubs and 100 non-first-tier clubs)

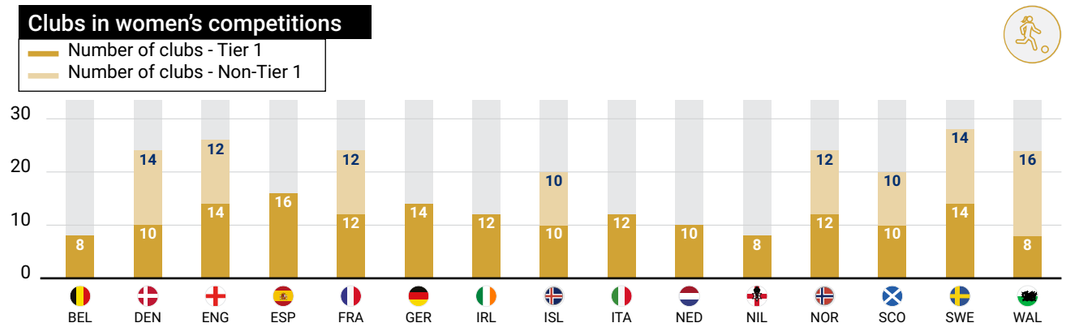
TOTAL

54	34	20	89	1320
European Leagues members	Countries represented	EU Member States represented	Football divisions (including 49 first tiers, 30 second tiers, 8 third tiers, and 2 fourth tiers)	Professional football clubs (including 676 first-tier clubs and 644 non-first-tier clubs)

3.4 Total Number of Clubs



ALB-LPF	Liga Profesioniste e Futbollit	GER2-DFB	Deutscher Fußball-Bund e.V.	NOR-TF	Norsk Toppfotball
AUT-BL	Österreichische Fußball Bundesliga	GRE-SL	Super League Greece	POL-EK	Polish Professional Football League Ekstraklasa
AZE-PFL	Azerbaijan Professional Football League	ISL-TF	Icelandic Toppfootball	POR-LP	Liga Portugal
BEL-PL	Pro League	ISR-PFL	Israeli Professional Football Leagues	IRL-FAI	Football Association of Ireland
BUL-PFL	Bulgarian Professional Football League	ITA1-A	Lega Serie A	ROU-LPF	Liga Profesionistă de Fotbal
CZE-LFA	Ligová Fotbalová Asociace	ITA2-B	Lega Serie B	SCO-PFL	Scottish Professional Football League
DEN-DF	Divisionsforeningen	ITA3-C	Serie C	SRB-SL	Serbian Super Liga
ENG1-PL	Premier League	KAZ-QFL	Qazaqstan Football League	SVK-LCU	Unia Ligovych Klubov
ENG2-EFL	English Football League	LAT-VL	Futbola Virsliga	SWE-EF	Föreningen Svensk Elitfotboll
ESP-LL	LALIGA	MLT-PL	Malta Premier League	SUI-FL	Swiss Football League
FIN-VL	The Finnish Football League Association	NED1-ED	Eredivisie CV	TUR-TUC	Turkish Union of Clubs
FRA-LFP	Ligue de Football Professionnel	NED2-CED	Cooperatie Eerste Divisie	UKR-PL	Ukrainian Premier League
GER1-BL	Bundesliga	NIL-FL	Northern Ireland Football League	WAL-FAW	Football Association of Wales



BEL-PLW	Pro League	GER-FBL	Frauen Bundesliga	NIL-WP	Northern Ireland Football League – Women's Premiership
DEN-LF	Liga Forbundet	IRL-FAIW	League of Ireland	NOR-TK	Toppfotball Kvinner
ENG-WSL	WSL Football	ISL-TFW	Icelandic Toppfootball	SCO-WPL	Scottish Women's Premier League
ESP-LF	Liga F	ITA-AW	Serie A Women	SWE-EFD	Elitfotboll Dam
FRA-LFFP	Ligue Féminine de Football Professionnel	NED-VED	Vrouwen Eredivisie	WAL-AP	Adran Premier

4.

EUROPEAN LEAGUES BODIES



4.1 General Assembly

4.2 Board of Directors

4.3 Administration



4.1 General Assembly

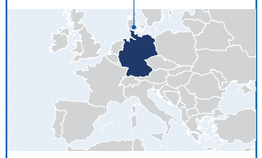
The General Assembly brings together all European Leagues Ordinary Members and Associate Members. As the organisation's supreme legislative body, it determines the Association's overall policies and may delegate authority and powers to the Board of Directors.

At the 52nd General Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria, European Leagues members approved the 2026-2027 Strategic Priorities (p. 24 onwards), built on five core pillars that provide a clear roadmap for safeguarding the sustainable future of football.

Members also adopted landmark statutory changes that paved the way to the expansion of the organisation's membership, including the admission of women's professional leagues, which took place during the 53rd General Assembly.

Latest Meetings of the European Leagues General Assembly

2025 — 6 March — Frankfurt, Germany



50th General Assembly

(Ordinary)

2025 — 31 October — Online



51st General Assembly

(Ordinary)

2026 — 12 March — Sofia, Bulgaria



52nd General Assembly

(Ordinary)

2026 — 12 June — Online



53rd General Assembly

(Extraordinary)



50th General Assembly - Frankfurt (Germany)



52nd General Assembly - Sofia (Bulgaria)

4.2 Board of Directors



CLAUDIUS SCHÄFER

Swiss Football League

SUI *President*



MATHIEU MOREUIL

Premier League

ENG *Vice-President*

The European Leagues Board of Directors is the Association's executive body, responsible for its overall governance, oversight, and strategic direction.

Comprising thirteen members, the Board is elected by the General Assembly, with each member serving a four-year term.

Claudius Schäfer, CEO of the Swiss Football League, was officially appointed President of European Leagues at the 50th General Assembly in Frankfurt on 6 March 2025.



LORIN PARYS

Pro League

BEL *Board Member*



CLAUS THOMSEN

Divisionsforeningen

DEN *Board Member*



JAVIER TEBAS

LaLiga

ESP *Board Member*



BENJAMIN VIARD

Ligue de Football Professionnel

FRA *Board Member*



MARC LENZ

Bundesliga

GER *Board Member*



LUIGI DE SIERVO

Lega Serie A

ITA *Board Member*



PAOLO BEDIN

Lega Serie B

ITA *Board Member*



JAN DE JONG

Eredivisie CV

NED *Board Member*



MARCIN ANIMUCKI

Ekstraklasa

POL *Board Member*



NEIL DONCASTER

Scottish Professional Football League

SCO *Board Member*



MICHAL MERTINYÁK

Unia Ligovych Klubov

SVK *Board Member*

13

Board members elected by the General Assembly for a four-year term



4.3 Administration

The European Leagues Administration serves as the operational arm of the Association. Acting under the direction of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly, it is responsible for implementing the strategies and initiatives required to achieve the Association's objectives. The Administration also oversees the day-to-day management of European Leagues, including its administrative, financial, and operational activities.

The Administration's core areas of responsibility include:

- Finance and Administration
- Member Services
- Legal Affairs
- Communications
- Relations with Football Stakeholders and EU institutions
- Event Management
- Research & Business Intelligence
- Business & Commercial Development

5.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

AND KEY WORK STREAMS

5.1 Tackling Growing Polarisation

5.2 Reinforcing Football Governance

5.3 Fighting Piracy

5.4 Strengthening Social Dialogue

5.5 Securing the European Sport Model's Future

5.6 Business Development

5.7 Calendar Matters

5.8 Women's Football

5.9 Sustainability

5.10 Stadium, Safety and Security

5.11 Fan Engagement

Strategic Priorities built around 5 core pillars

PILLAR 1
Tackling Growing Polarisation

PILLAR 2
Reinforcing Football Governance

PILLAR 3
Fighting Piracy

PILLAR 4
Strengthening Social Dialogue

PILLAR 5
Securing the European Sport Model's Future

Key work streams

- Business Development
- Calendar Matters
- Women's Football
- Sustainability
- Stadium, Safety and Security
- Fan Engagement
- Performance, Sports Science, and Medical Matters



5.1 Tackling Growing Polarisation - Report on Safeguarding the sustainable future of European football

Developing an Evidence Base for UCCs Impact on Domestic Leagues

Over the course of the 2025/26 season, European Leagues performed a deep analysis of the balance between domestic and international club football in Europe, a major evidence-based research and advocacy project assessing the effects of the recent expansion of UEFA club competitions (UCCs) on domestic leagues across Europe.

The report was structured around three core pillars: calendar, media rights, and competitive balance. It benefitted from the support of a leading independent consultancy, ensuring external validation of the findings.

Expert Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure practical relevance, the project drew on the expertise of specialist working groups aligned with the report's three pillars. These groups, made up of member representatives, supported the review and validation of the analysis, recommendations, and policy proposals.

This collaborative approach helped ensure that the report includes practical and innovative policy considerations relevant to the wider European football ecosystem.

Key Findings

The report benefitted from these works and exchanges and identified three principal findings:

- First, the expansion of UCCs has placed unprecedented pressure on the football calendar, significantly reducing domestic leagues' scheduling flexibility and increasing operational, sporting and governance challenges.
- Second, UCCs are becoming increasingly dominant in domestic media markets, with the value of UCC media rights now exceeding domestic league rights in a majority of UEFA territories, contributing to growing commercial pressure on national competitions.
- Third, the current UCC revenue distribution model is exacerbating financial disparities within domestic leagues, reinforcing sporting dominance among recurring European participants and contributing to a decline in competitive balance. The analysis suggests that existing solidarity mechanisms are insufficient to offset these trends.

The report concludes that preserving the long-term sustainability of European football requires a better balance between the continued growth of UCCs and the health of domestic leagues. It calls for improved calendar governance, a reassessment of revenue distribution mechanisms, and governance arrangements that more effectively recognise the fundamental contribution of domestic leagues to the success and sustainability of the European football pyramid. The report has since become a key component of European Leagues' advocacy activities and policy discussions concerning the future development of European football.





"The report on Safeguarding the sustainable future of European football provides an essential evidence-based assessment of how international and domestic club competitions interact within the European football ecosystem. At a time of growing calendar pressures, objective data is critical to informing discussions, guiding policy decisions, discussing solutions with other stakeholders, and working together to safeguard a landscape that supports the scheduling autonomy, commercial viability, competitive balance, and overall sustainability of European football at all levels."

Claus Thomsen, Divisionsforeningen CEO and European Leagues Board member

Enhancing Revenue Distribution Mechanisms

Enhancing UCC Revenue Distribution for the cycle 2027-31

During the period in consideration, building on the findings of the above-mentioned report, the Administration together with an appointed members' Task Force focused its work on:

- Performing different analysis and evaluations of the current distribution model
- Discussing about the possible alternative options and mechanisms to address structural polarisation and financial imbalance
- Exploring different levers to help create a more sustainable revenue distribution system
- Building a revenue distribution simulator to create dynamic scenarios with key parameters and levers

The analysis and simulations demonstrated that only a substantial increase in solidarity funding, channelled through an enhanced distribution mechanism, would meaningfully mitigate the growing impact of financial polarisation at domestic level across Europe. They also showed that all UCC-participating clubs should contribute proportionately to the redistribution of revenues to non-participating clubs (directly via UCC revenue distrbution), as fair compensation for the value generated within their respective domestic markets.



"To address growing financial polarisation, a more sustainable UEFA Club Competitions' revenue model should reward sporting merit but also protect competitive balance, domestic competitions and the broader football ecosystem. European Leagues stands ready to play a constructive and engaged role alongside UEFA, and other stakeholders, to ensure the game's prosperous future."

Jan de Jong, Eredivisie CEO and European Leagues Board member

Financial Sustainability

Recent developments show a football landscape where more European clubs operate with unsustainable deficit and an increasing dependency on external capital. At the same time, financial polarization within European club football could lead to increased competitive imbalances both at national and European competition levels, undermining the foundation of the attractiveness of these competitions, while the current financial and ownership developments risk both competitive balance as well as the principle of sporting merit and open pyramid structure.

In this context, several member leagues are in the process to strengthen and enhance their domestic cost-control mechanisms – while further developments are also necessary at European level.



"We all must secure a positive financial and sporting outlook of European football, in both domestic and international competitions. Because fact is: Despite record revenues, many European clubs continue to operate with unsustainable deficits, leading to a continuous and significant reliance on external funding, pushing the entire industry to unsustainability. In response, several member leagues are strengthening and further developing their domestic cost-control mechanisms. The objectives are to enhance financial sustainability, prevent excessive spending, reduce dependency on external financing (also in the interest of investors), and safeguard the integrity of football competitions. The European Leagues welcome their close cooperation with UEFA on these regulatory matters and acknowledge the significant progress achieved through UEFA's Financial Sustainability Regulatory Reform. However, in light of continuous financial misdevelopments across European football, leagues have expressed, through UEFA's Club Licensing Committee, their ambition to explore further measures – plus strict and deterrent sanctioning mechanism – aimed at strengthening a sustainable football ecosystem."

Marc Lenz, Bundesliga CEO and European Leagues Board member



5.2 Reinforcing Football Governance

IMC Complaint

In October 2024, European Leagues lodged a Complaint with the European Commission concerning FIFA's role in setting the International Match Calendar (IMC) and the inherent conflict between its regulatory and commercial interests. The Complaint raises severe concerns regarding the impact of the IMC on other parts of the football ecosystem and its compatibility with EU competition law.



As FIFA's commercial influence continues to expand, its governance structure must evolve accordingly. The game's global governing body needs a modern framework that balances regulatory responsibilities with commercial interests and includes stakeholders, ensuring transparency, accountability and proper checks and balances. Without this equilibrium, football as a whole risks undermining the trust and legitimacy upon which its future growth ultimately depends."

Lorin Parys, Pro League CEO and European Leagues Board member

Over recent months, European Leagues, in close cooperation with the World Leagues Association (WLA) has maintained active engagement with the European Commission, advocating for the formal opening of proceedings concerning FIFA's approach to the IMC.

This has included both political and technical meetings with key European Commission civil servants to discuss the Complaint, its substance and the concerns raised by European Leagues. A significant development in 2026 was the extension of the Complaint to cover the Women's International Match Calendar, following the formal integration of Women's Leagues into European Leagues' membership. This broadened the scope of the Complaint and further strengthened European Leagues' engagement with the European Commission on the issue.



"The International Match Calendar (IMC) is now beyond saturation. It threatens domestic competitions' scheduling and players' health. The European Leagues' complaint lodged before the European Commission is based on competition law provisions and challenges FIFA's unilateral decisions to increase the number of dates used to organise its own competitions. It also seeks to ensure the involvement of domestic competitions' organisers in the decision-making process on the IMC."

Mathieu Moreuil, Director of International Football Relations and EU Affairs at The Premier League and European Leagues Vice-President

5.3 Fighting Piracy

Advocacy towards European Institutions

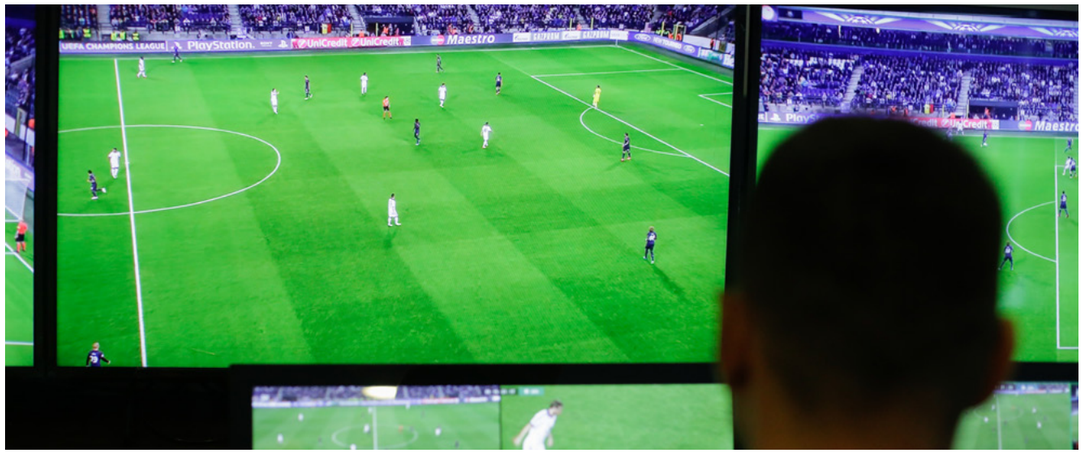
The estimated global cost of piracy amounts to USD 228 billion per year. In that context, piracy of live events remains an area of significant concern and increasing focus for European Leagues. For instance, the annual piracy-related losses for professional football clubs in Spain equalled EUR 650 million. However, current EU policy and legislative tools do not provide sufficient safeguards to effectively deter piracy and ensure the rapid removal of illegal content. The European Commission itself has acknowledged that its existing Recommendation on measures to combat online piracy has not been sufficient to curb the scale of the problem, reinforcing the need for a stronger legislative response.

Through its membership of the Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC), European Leagues has continued to play an active role in advocating for stronger EU measures, including legislation that would require the immediate removal of illegal content following the issuance of a valid notice. European Leagues has also contributed to a number of stakeholder consultations launched by the European Commission, highlighting the scale and impact of live-event piracy and setting out the policy and legislative solutions needed to address the issue more effectively.

The scale of the problem is increasingly recognised by policymakers, alongside a growing recognition of the need for a legislative response. European Leagues therefore retains confidence that the EU will take further action to address online piracy and strengthen the protection of live sporting events.

Protection of intellectual property rights

European Leagues remains an active and engaged member of the Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC), the organisation established to coordinate advocacy efforts aimed at protecting the interests of sports rights holders. A significant part of SROC's work is undertaken at EU level, focusing on a range of issues critical to the value and protection of sports media rights. These include the continued fight against online piracy, the protection of geo-blocking as an established framework for the territorial exploitation of broadcasting rights, and issues relating to betting and the use of official sports data.



SROC's Policy Priorities for 2024-29

During the current mandate of the European institutions the Sports Rights Owners Coalition calls on European policymakers to:

1. Continue to support the freedom of sports events organisers to license our content on a territorial basis and maintain the current system of justified geo-enabling
2. Adopt legislation to tackle illegal live content piracy, taking into account the impact of the 2023 European Commission Recommendation
3. Continue to promote and protect sustainable and viable models of sports competitions in Europe, intending that sporting merit will be a relevant criteria for success and supporting athletes at every level from elite to grassroots
4. Resist calls for the introduction of telecommunications network fees, which will only have a detrimental impact on the European creative sector as a whole, including our members, and on consumers
5. Set out in legislation compulsory criteria for sports betting licensees in Europe to only use official data sources to protect sports integrity and intellectual property.



"Our priority is clear: to defend the value of domestic leagues, the backbone of European football. Despite constant attempts to undermine this project through disproportionate pressure, we will continue to fight for a model based on sporting merit, solidarity and good governance. Protecting that value also means tackling piracy, the biggest challenge facing our industry, through technology, institutional cooperation, advocacy and legal action."

Javier Tebas, LALIGA CEO and European Leagues Board member



5.4 Strengthening Social Dialogue

European Leagues continued to play an active role in the European Social Dialogue, working alongside the EFC, FIFPRO Europe and UEFA to advance player welfare, labour relations and the long-term sustainability of professional football.

Occupational Health & Safety (OSH)

As part of the 2026 Social Dialogue Work Programme, European Leagues contributed to the development of common principles on Occupational Health & Safety, supporting discussions on player workload, welfare and future calendar governance. The Association also established a dedicated Working Group on Performance, Sports Science and Medical Matters, bringing together league experts to strengthen knowledge-sharing and support evidence-based policy development.

Player Status and Transfers

Following the Diarra judgment, the social partners agreed a set of common principles to guide the reform of the international transfer system. Their work contributed to the adoption of amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) in June 2026, while laying the groundwork for future discussions on training compensation, minors and football agents.

LOAD Study

European Leagues remained actively involved in the UEFA LOAD Study, a joint stakeholder initiative aimed at developing a robust scientific framework for understanding player load in elite football. During the season, the project progressed into its data collection and analysis phase, gathering insights from players, coaches, medical and performance experts. The study's findings will help inform future policy discussions on player welfare, workload management and calendar governance.





5.5 Securing the European Sport Model's Future

EU Affairs – including European Day and Week of Sport

In recent times, engagement with the EU has strengthened as political interest in football has continued to grow, with increasing focus on the challenges facing the European Sport Model. This engagement has taken place at both political and technical levels, across the different EU institutions and on a wide range of policy areas of importance to football.

A key focus of the European Commission's sports policy has been safeguarding and strengthening the European Sport Model. The Commission is expected to adopt a Communication before the end of the year addressing a number of the challenges facing the Model, including around governance, financial sustainability, the strengthening of solidarity mechanisms and the social impact of football. European Leagues has played an active role in the stakeholder consultation process supporting the development of this policy roadmap, providing detailed written contributions and engaging regularly with Commission officials.

On the social dimension of football, European Leagues partnered with the European Commission to provide visibility to the annual European Week of Sport campaign, held in September, which seeks to encourage European citizens to adopt more active and healthy lifestyles. Member leagues also actively participated over the weekend of 9–10 May in celebrations for Europe Day through dedicated matchday activations promoting European values and reaffirming domestic football's contribution to the European Sport Model. Under the coordination of European Leagues, 14 member leagues from 12 EU countries showcased and promoted the values that underpin the European Union through in-stadium activations and across broadcast and digital channels and platforms.

Over recent months, European Leagues delegations have also met with European Commissioner for Sport Glenn Micallef, European Commission Vice-President Henna Virkkunen and Members of the European Parliament with an interest in football and sport, engaging on these and other matters of importance to the future of European football.



"The strength of European football depends on the health of its entire pyramid. Lower-tier leagues are vital to developing talent, sustaining communities and preserving the game's identity. Recognising their value while ensuring meaningful financial solidarity across all levels is therefore essential to protecting the diversity, competitiveness and long-term sustainability of European football for future generations."

Paolo Bedin, Serie B President and European Leagues Board member

5.6 Business Development

Business Development 2.0

For the business and commercial activities of the association, season 2025/26 was an important year as it kicked-off a process of reviewing - in a holistic and strategic manner – our activities under the umbrella of *Business Development 2.0* and under the supervision of a dedicated Task Force.



"Business Development 2.0 marks a new chapter for European Leagues. Our business activities provide significant value to the association, connect commercial experts across our membership and open new opportunities. By working together, our member leagues can turn shared expertise into tangible commercial value for domestic football across Europe."

Michal Mertinyák, Executive Director of the Unia Ligovych Klubov (Slovakia) and European Leagues Board member

Future Strategy

The discussion around Business Development 2.0 is aimed at further enhancing and supporting our association both internally towards our member leagues but also externally vis-à-vis the other football stakeholders and commercial partners. That strategy includes a mix of starting new business projects in the short-term while also considering mid/long-term projects as well as reflecting on the governance structure of our association.

In addition to the significant financial support business income is providing to our association, the value creation of our business activities extends much further in non-monetary ways. Commercial and business meetings, information sharing and in-person events also provide value to members while projects and related steering / working groups also strengthen relationships among commercial and business experts within our membership.



"Official sports data is one of domestic football competition organisers' most valuable strategic assets. It is created through significant investment, expertise and innovation, and underpins the integrity of competitions, media products and regulated betting markets. Protecting and recognising the value of official data is essential not only to safeguarding commercial rights, but also to ensuring transparency, reliability and sustainable growth across the entire football ecosystem."

Luigi De Siervo,
Serie A CEO and European Leagues Board member

ELEVATE



During this season we also decided to re-activate our ELEVATE educational platform which will kick-off with a new business focused format for season 2026/27.2026 will see one event hosted by the Danish League with another session in late 2027 hosted by the Polish League.





5.7 Calendar Matters

European Leagues relaunched its Calendar Working Group several seasons ago to strengthen cooperation among member leagues in response to the growing pressure on the football calendar. The group provides a platform to exchange views, identify common challenges and develop concrete proposals to protect the scheduling and delivery of domestic competitions.

During the 2025/26 season, the Working Group maintained an active dialogue with UEFA's competitions department on the scheduling challenges arising from the new UEFA Club Competitions formats. A delegation met with UEFA on several occasions to present the challenges faced by domestic leagues, explain their operational implications and discuss potential mitigation measures.

These exchanges sought to ensure that domestic leagues' constraints were reflected in UEFA's scheduling decisions and to identify workable solutions. This engagement remains essential to safeguarding the viability of domestic competition calendars and the long-term sustainability of the wider football calendar.

5.8 Women's Football

Over a period of less than 15 months, European Leagues reached several important milestones in strengthening the representation of women's professional football. These included the launch of the Women's European Leagues platform in Nyon, the adoption of governance reforms granting full membership rights to women's professional leagues and Board representation, and the formal endorsement of new women's members at an Extraordinary General Assembly. Collectively, these achievements mark a significant step forward in ensuring a more inclusive and representative organisation.



This important milestone for our organisation is the result of a constructive and structured consultation process and reflected a willingness from the leagues themselves to foster collective collaboration amongst domestic women's competition organisers and facilitate structured engagement with key stakeholders at European level. The main objectives of the platform, amongst others, are the following:

- To be the leading representatives of women's national professional leagues in Europe on all matters of common interest and to defend the interests of all their member clubs.
- To foster cooperation among European women's leagues inclusive of their member clubs through knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices and business development initiatives and the creation of dedicated respective working groups, with an emphasis on helping to accelerate the development of professionalized national club football in Europe.
- To work constructively and collaboratively with European football stakeholders (UEFA, EFC and FIFPRO) and European institutions.

The Extraordinary General Assembly held in June 2026 formally welcomed 15 women's professional leagues into its membership (by alphabetical order of country):

WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEMBERS

BELGIUM Pro League (Women's Super League)	DENMARK Ligaforbundet	ENGLAND WSL Football	
ICELAND Íslenskur Toppfótbolti	NORTHERN IRELAND Northern Ireland Football League Women's Premiership	NORWAY Toppfotball Kvinner	
SCOTLAND Scottish Women's Premier League	SPAIN Liga F	SWEDEN Elitfotboll Dam	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

FRANCE Ligue Féminine de Football Professionnel	GERMANY Frauen-Bundesliga	IRELAND League of Ireland Women's Premier Division
ITALY Serie A Women	NETHERLANDS Vrouwen Eredivisie	WALES Adran Premier

In September 2026, all new women members unanimously endorsed the regulations governing the Platform and confirmed its Management Board and Chair (details included below), whose mandate will run until September 2030. Members also agreed on the procedure for the election of a Women's Director, who will represent the Women's Leagues Members Platform on the Board of Directors, with effect from the next European Leagues General Assembly in November 2026.

WLM MANAGEMENT BOARD



FIONA MCINTYRE
Scottish Women's Premier League
SCO *Chair*



YLVA JOHANSSON
Elitfotboll Dam
SWE *Member*



NIKKI DOUCET
Women's Super League Football
ENG *Member*



BÉATRIZ ÁLVAREZ
Liga F
ESP *Member*



"The establishment of the WLM Platform is an important milestone for the women's game, which is experiencing a period of rapid growth and expansion, bringing significant opportunities but also important challenges. Through the European Leagues' platform, we will work in a coordinated way to support the continued development of women's professional football, ensuring sustainable growth and delivering long-term benefits for leagues, clubs, players and fans."

Fiona McIntyre, Managing Director of Scottish Women's Premier League and Chair of the European Leagues WLM Management Board

01 — JULY 2025
Creation of the informal **Women's European Leagues Platform**

02 — MARCH 2026
General Assembly
Statutory amendments approved at GA in Sofia, allowing women's leagues to formally join European Leagues association

03 — MAY 2026
BoD meeting
BoD approves Basic Principles document, necessary step to formally establish WLM Platform

04 — JUNE 2026
Extra General Assembly
Formal approval of **Women's Leagues members** in the European Leagues' membership

05 — SEPT. 2026
Online Kick-off meeting of the WLM Platform, to approve **detailed regulations** and to elect its **leadership**

5.9 Sustainability

The Sustainability Expert Group was launched at an in-person meeting in Zurich in May 2025. It brings together sustainability experts from domestic leagues to exchange knowledge, develop practical support for members and strengthen the representation of leagues in sustainability discussions with other European stakeholders. Since its launch, the group has built closer cooperation among leagues and with stakeholders, while creating opportunities to share approaches that can be adapted across different markets.

Practical support for leagues: In response to members' requests, European Leagues launched a peer-to-peer series on Building a League Sustainability Strategy. The aim was to give leagues at an earlier stage the tools to develop and launch their own strategies, with support from more advanced peers. Across three online sessions, experts from leagues shared with their peers their experience of defining priorities, building a strategy that creates impact, and putting it into practice through engagement and reporting.

Cooperation at European level: One of the main objectives of the Sustainability Expert Group was to fill a gap in the representation of domestic leagues in European sustainability discussions. Through this platform, European Leagues brings the voice and interests of leagues into exchanges with other stakeholders, including UEFA and EFC.

Cooperation with UEFA includes quarterly meetings to update each other on ongoing work, as well as invitations for leagues to participate in sustainability roadshows, webinars and workshops. Future cooperation will also address topics such as measuring spectator mobility.

Event Sustainability Manual: A key deliverable of this cooperation was the Event Sustainability Manual, co-produced with UEFA and launched in June 2026. It provides clubs with practical sustainability guidance for organising matches and other events. Following its first pilot match, the aim is to support its implementation across several European countries.



UEFA – EL joint workshop in Nyon: On 16–17 September 2026, European Leagues and UEFA brought together 19 sustainability experts from domestic leagues, alongside representatives of UEFA, for a two-day workshop in Nyon. The meeting provided an opportunity for leagues at different stages of their sustainability journeys to share experiences and good practices, learn from one another, and explore how successful approaches could be adapted to different markets. It also strengthened cooperation among leagues and with other European football stakeholders.





"Sustainability has become a strategic imperative for European professional football. As organisers of domestic competitions and partners to hundreds of clubs, leagues are uniquely positioned to turn ambition into action. By working together, sharing best practices and developing common tools, we can accelerate meaningful progress and ensure that sustainability is embedded at the heart of football's long-term future."

Marcin Animucki, CEO of Ekstraklasa SA and European Leagues Board member



5.10 Stadium, Safety and Security

The Stadia Safety & Security Task Force brings together experts from 16 member leagues to exchange experience and develop common approaches to stadium management, safety and security. Its work reflects a shared commitment to making football matches safe, secure and welcoming for all supporters.



"Safety and security are essential to making football welcoming and accessible for everyone. Even when they do not organise matches, leagues play an important role in bringing clubs, public authorities and supporters together, and address challenges. By exchanging good practices across Europe, we create safer matchday experiences. Violent individuals have no place in stadiums. Football is and must remain a game; football should be a celebration and a moment of shared joy."

Benjamin Viard, Director of Competitions and European Leagues Board member

Annual site visit: In January 2026, Task Force members met in London for a two-day safety and security focused site visit hosted by the Premier League. Representatives from 12 member leagues exchanged experiences with colleagues and discussed approaches to stadium management, safety and security. They also visited Arsenal FC's Emirates Stadium, toured its security facilities and attended a matchday operational briefing before the Arsenal–Liverpool fixture. The next annual visit will take place in Porto, Portugal, beginning of 2027.

Cooperation with the Council of Europe. European Leagues continued its participation and contribution at the Saint-Denis Convention Committee, sharing developments with Task Force members and contributing the league perspective to its work. This included contribution to the report on policing costs at football matches (EL as member of the Advisory Working Group), discussions of the use of pyrotechnics in stadium, as well as the use of collective bans against away supporters. In September 2026, European Leagues joined UEFA, European Football Clubs and Football Supporters Europe in endorsing a common position calling for collective bans to be limited to exceptional circumstances, with a focus on individual accountability, consultation and proportionate decisions.



Representation in UEFA's Working Goups: Task Force members attended the annual UEFA Safety & Security Conferences in Budapest in September 2025 and in Madrid in September 2026. European Leagues Task Force members are represented in various UEFA working groups, where they follow ongoing work and bring the voice of domestic leagues to discussions on topics including standing facilities, pyrotechnics and demountable stands.

5.11 Fan Engagement

The Fan Engagement Expert Group was launched at the end of the 2025/26 season. Its online kick off meeting provided an opportunity for interested leagues to define the group's scope, expectations, objectives and ways of working. The group aims to help leagues exchange experiences, share good practices in fan engagement and develop practical approaches to strengthening the relationship between clubs and supporters.

Club2Club project. The group is supporting a pilot expansion of Club2Club, a peer exchange programme that enables club executives to learn from their counterparts in other countries. The pilot will provide an opportunity to assess the format before considering its extension to additional leagues in the future.

Fan Attendance Report. The Fan Attendance Report was also developed in part under the umbrella of the Fan Engagement Expert Group, connecting the group's exchanges with European Leagues' work to better understand attendance across domestic competitions.



"Fans are the lifeblood of European football. Rising attendances across Europe demonstrate both the enduring power of league football and the huge importance of member clubs to the communities that surround and sustain them. Strong crowds not only create the atmosphere that makes our competitions unique, they also strengthen clubs, communities and the long-term sustainability of the game. The continuing growth in attendances since COVID-19 is a clear demonstration of football's cultural significance and an endorsement of the work that is carried out by European Leagues and their member clubs to enhance the matchday experience for supporters."

Neil Doncaster, Group Chief Executive of The Scottish Professional Football League Limited and European Leagues Board member

6.

MEMBER SERVICES

6.1 Research and Information

6.2 Events, Workshops and Seminars

6.1 Research and Information

Benchmark Reports

For the fourth consecutive season, European Leagues has partnered with the World Leagues Association (WLA) to produce the annual League Benchmark Report.

Through this collaboration, European Leagues delivers comprehensive reports featuring information from leagues worldwide, providing a truly global perspective on topics such as:

- Competition formats;
- Governance structures;
- Financial and business matters.

The 2026 edition was published in July 2026 following an extensive data collection and consolidation process.

The usual benchmarking "Dashboards" covering topics such as Competition, Governance and Player Matters have also been published over the end of summer and the beginning of autumn 2026.

Like in 2025, the collaboration with WLA also resulted in the publication of the Women's Benchmark Report in October 2026.

Bespoke Reports

Over the 2025/2026 season, the Administration multiple Bespoke Reports were published to support European Leagues members with ad hoc insights on the following focus areas:

- **Competition:** These focused on competition rules and operations, player registration and transfer regulations, stadium management, and financial distribution mechanisms.
- **Business:** These centred on media rights revenues, commercial partnerships and licensing opportunities, technology solutions, data services, matchday equipment, and supplier procurement.
- **Communication:** These mainly revolved around media operations and accreditation, awards and recognition programmes, and attendance benchmarking across European professional football leagues and stadiums.
- **Governance:** Governance-related enquiries primarily involved insights on the economic and regulatory environment of professional football, disciplinary and legal frameworks, and league governance documentation and procedures.

The service aims at providing tailored assistance to help leagues in their day-to day management across multiple areas of league organisation. These Bespoke Reports covered a wide range of topics of interest for domestic football:

1. Minimum rest periods between official matches
2. Relationship between Leagues & Referee Committees
3. Extreme Weather Impact on Match Operations and Competition Scheduling
4. Betting Tax, Revenue and Distribution in Professional Football
5. Parachute and Solidarity Payments in European Leagues
6. Centralised Commercial and Sponsorship Framework
7. Competition Formats across European leagues
8. Betting Sponsorship & Fan Perception
9. Youth Academy Structure and Operations



Online Platforms and Tools

Member Services Dashboard: The Member Services Dashboard provides members with a central space to access requests, bespoke reports and relevant documents. By keeping these resources in one place, the platform makes it easier for leagues to consult previous exchanges and draw on information shared across the membership.

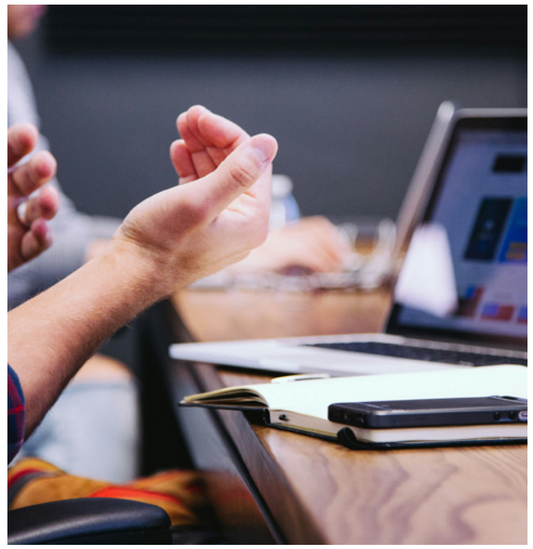
European Players Platform: Developed in 2024, the European Players Platform remained available to members for the whole 2025/26 season. It brings together interactive player data from domestic competitions across member leagues, including matches played and effective playing time. Members can use the platform to explore and compare patterns of player participation across leagues.

6.2 Events, Workshops and Seminars

At the start of the 2025/26 season, the European Leagues Administration established a new online session format to facilitate the exchange of knowledge among member leagues. Each session provides an opportunity for one or more leagues to present their work, discuss practical challenges and share approaches that may be relevant to their counterparts across Europe.

Webinars held during the season included:

- Competition formats
- The Premier League Match Centre on X
- Bundesliga's Stadium alliances
- Tackling online abuse and discrimination
- Serie A' The Road to Zero project
- Fan engagement and supporter experience
- Stadium safety and security season review



7.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS



Events and Meetings 2025/26

Key Milestones in 2025/26

2025 · 06 March · Frankfurt, Germany
European Leagues 50th General Assembly

2025 · 02 April · Belgrade, Serbia
UEFA Executive Committee

2025 · 03 April · Belgrade, Serbia
49th Ordinary UEFA Congress

2025 · 10–11 April · Krakow, Poland
EU Sports Forum 2025

2025 · 11 April · Online
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2025 · 28–29 April · Istanbul, Türkiye
European Social Dialogue – Site visit Türkiye

2025 · 07–08 May · Zürich, Switzerland
European Leagues Sustainability Expert Group Kick-off & UEFA Respect Forum

2025 · 21 May · Bilbao, Spain
UEFA Executive Committee

2025 · 29 May · Münich, Germany
FIFPRO Europe + European Leagues Joint Media Roundtable

2025 · 03–04 June · Strasbourg, France
Saint-Denis Convention
7th meeting of the Committee on Safety & Security at Sport events

2025 · 11–12 June · Stockholm, Sweden
FIFPRO Europe General Assembly

2025 · 13 June · Paris, France
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2025 · 26–28 June · Malmö, Sweden
FSE - European Football Fans Congress (EFFC)

2025 · 22 July · Nyon, Switzerland
Women's European Leagues kick-off event

2025 · 28 August · Monaco
UEFA Stakeholders annual meeting

2025 · 02–03 September · Budapest, Hungary
UEFA Annual Safety and Security Conference 2025 & European Leagues Stadia, Safety & Security Task Force meeting

2025 · 02 September · London, England
European Leagues Communication Task Force meeting

2025 · 08–09 September · Paris, France
UEFA Financial Sustainability Forum

2025 · 11 September · Tirana, Albania
UEFA Executive Committee

2025 · 17–18 September · Brussels, Belgium
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2025 · 25 September · Zagreb, Croatia
European Social Dialogue meeting on Transfer System

2025 · 30 September · Brussels, Belgium
SROC Meeting

2025 · 01–02 October · Athens, Greece
2025 UEFA Club Licensing & Financial Sustainability Annual Conference

2025 · 07–09 October · Roma, Italy
32nd ECA General Assembly

2025 · 14–15 October · Bratislava, Slovakia
European Social Dialogue - Field visit in Slovakia

2025 · 28 October · Nyon, Switzerland
UEFA Football Committee

2025 · 31 October · Online
51st European Leagues General Assembly

2025 · 10 November · Online
European Social Dialogue – Employers & Employees Roundtable

2025 · 12 November · Athens, Greece
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2025 · 12–13 November · Athens, Greece
World Leagues Association Annual Meeting

2025 · 18 November · Brussels, Belgium
UEC Football Forum

2025 · 20–21 November · Florence, Italy
Lega Serie A Summit

2025 · 26 November · Brussels, Belgium
European Social Dialogue Plenary meeting

2025 · 02–03 December · Strasbourg, France
Saint-Denis Convention
8th meeting of the Committee on Safety & Security at Sport events

2025 · 03 December · Nyon, Switzerland
UEFA Executive Committee

2025 · 04 December · London, England
SROC Meeting

2025 · 11 December · Online
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2026 · 05–06 January · London, England
European Leagues Stadia, Safety & Security Task Force meeting

2026 · 24–25 January · London, England
Women's Leagues Forum Annual meeting

2026 · 11 February · Brussels, Belgium
UEFA Executive Committee

2026 · 12 February · Brussels, Belgium
50th UEFA Congress

2026 · 18 February · Online
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2026 · 03 March · Düsseldorf, Germany
European Leagues Commercial and Business Development Meeting & SportsInnovation 2026

2026 · 11 March · Sofia, Bulgaria
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2026 · 12 March · Sofia, Bulgaria
52nd European Leagues General Assembly

2026 · 18 March · Nyon, Switzerland
SROC Meeting

2026 · 15–16 April · Paphos, Cyprus
EU Sports Forum 2026

2026 · 28–29 April · Strasbourg, France
Saint-Denis Convention
9th meeting of the Committee on Safety & Security at Sport events

2026 · 12 May · Prague, Czechia
FIFPRO Europe General Assembly

2026 · 20 May · Istanbul, Türkiye
UEFA Executive Committee

2026 · 30 May · Budapest, Hungary
European Leagues Board of Directors meeting

2026 · 02 June · Brussels, Belgium
SROC Meeting

2026 · 05 June · Helsinki, Finland
Veikkausliiga Clubs meeting

2026 · 12 June · Online
European Leagues Extraordinary General Assembly

2026 · 29–30 June · Bratislava, Slovakia
Unia Ligovych Klubov Clubs meeting

KEY

- European Leagues meetings and events
- UEFA
- EU institutions, Social Dialogue and Council of Europe
- Other football stakeholders

Meetings and events organised by the European Leagues and/or attended with an active role.

Key Milestones in 2025/26

Milestones

2025

MARCH 2025
New Board elected. Claudius Schäfer elected President.

JUNE 2025
Alberto Colombo appointed General Secretary.

JULY 2025
Business Development 2.0 strategic review and decision to relaunch ELEVATE.

JULY 2025
Official launch of the European Leagues Women's Leagues Platform.

NOVEMBER
Board approves Strategic Paper with focus on tackling financial polarisation in the game

NOVEMBER 2025
European Leagues, EFC, FIFPRO Europe and UEFA adopts joint resolution on the football transfer system at the European Social Dialogue plenary

2026

MARCH 2026
European Leagues' new biennial Strategic Priorities adopted by the General Assembly in Sofia

JUNE 2026
14 Women's Leagues formally integrated into European Leagues' governance structure.

JUNE 2026
Joint UEFA/European Leagues Sustainability Manual launched.

JULY 2026
Board endorses the Report "Safeguarding the sustainable future of European football"

SEPTEMBER 2026
Complaint to the European Commission on the IMC against FIFA extended to women's calendar.

SEPTEMBER 2026
Board approves proposal to improve UCC revenue distribution model

OCTOBER 2026
New ELEVATE format kick-off in Denmark



ANNUAL REPORT
2025/26

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europeanleagues.com