



Amsterdam, 11 June 2026: Justice for Players welcomes the announcement that FIFA and FIFPRO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a new framework for collaboration in the future governance of professional football. Any meaningful step toward strengthening players' rights, and any reform of the transfer system that fully complies with European law and ensures the free movement of players, is positive.

The Memorandum, however, does not address the position of the more than 100,000 current and former professional footballers who played under FIFA's transfer rules between 2002 and today. The Court of Justice of the European Union has held that key elements of those rules unlawfully restricted players' free movement and breached EU competition law. Independent economic analysis indicates that players' earnings were on average 8% lower over the course of their careers because of these restrictions. Losses across the affected group run into the billions of euros.

Earlier this week, FIFA also settled the case brought by Lassana Diarra, whose proceedings led to the Court of Justice's landmark ruling. While FIFA has not formally acknowledged liability, that settlement and the present Memorandum together demonstrate that FIFA recognizes the scale of the issues and that its unlawful transfer rules require a remedy. The Memorandum does not, however, provide any compensation for the players who suffered the consequences of the unlawful rules for more than two decades.

"A new era for the future must not come at the cost of justice for the past", said Lucia Melcherts, chair of Justice for Players. "Players who lost income over more than twenty years have the right to seek compensation for the losses they have already suffered. Not only better rules going forward."

Justice for Players is confident that national player unions, which have stood with their current and former members from the outset of this matter, will continue to support the thousands of players who have joined the legal action to seek redress for the harm established by Europe's highest court.

The Foundation continues to seek justice for affected professional footballers. Registration for the collective action remains open via the Justice for Players website (<https://justiceforplayers.com/>)



Notes to Editors

About Justice for Players

Justice for Players was founded to advocate for the interests of professional footballers across Europe. The board comprises of three members: Lucia Melcherts, Dolf Segaar and Franco Baldini. Lucia Melcherts has been the chair of Stichting Massaschade & Consument (Foundation for Mass Damages & Consumers) since 2021.

She also holds the position of Coordinating Specialist Advisor at the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security. Dolf Segaar founded his own law firm Segaar Law in July 2021, specialising in governance and litigation, with a strong focus on sports law. Franco Baldini is a former professional footballer and agent and spent over 20 years in different senior management roles at top international clubs and organizations, including AS Roma, Real Madrid, Tottenham Hotspur and the England National Team. He currently runs his own consulting firm IC20 Ltd. www.justiceforplayers.com

About Finch

Finch Dispute Resolution is an independent Dutch litigation boutique law firm, founded in 2022. With a team of around 18 specialised litigators and 5 partners based in Utrecht, the firm handles corporate, commercial, financial, and class-action disputes—domestically and internationally. Finch is involved in several high-profile class actions against, among others, Booking.com, AbbVie, Tata Steel, Royal Dutch Philips, and ING Group.

<https://finch.nl>

About Dupont-Hissel

Jean-Louis Dupont and Martin Hissel are specialists in European law, particularly as applied to the sports sector. Together they have defended hundreds of cases, acting on behalf of all stakeholders in the professional sports sector, before the CJEU, the European Commission, the European Court of Human Rights, national competition authorities, national courts, international (including CAS) and national arbitration tribunals, and the internal judicial bodies of national and international sports associations. In particular, they have led and co-managed cases that resulted in landmark judgements of the CJEU regarding sports governance in the EU and beyond: Bosman (1995), Meca-Medina (2006), Royal Antwerp FC (2023), European Super League (2023), Lassana Diarra (2024) and RFC Seraing (2025).

www.Dupont-Hissel.com