

**To:** FIFA

FIFA-Strasse 20

PO Box 8044

Zurich, Switzerland

**Attn:**

Legal & Integrity Division

FIFA Players' Status Department

Ethics Committee

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is FLORIN ALEXANDRU ALBOIU and I am the legal representative of SC NEWMEDIA PRESS SRL, editor of online newspapers SPORT B – SPORT FOR BUCHAREST (sportb.ro), LIGA 4 – FOOTBALL AT THE COUNTY (liga4.com) and PHOTOSPORT – PHOTO MAGAZINE (photosport.ro), based in Bucharest, Romania, district 5, Jirlău St. no.36, zipcode 051427, tel. +40 754 929298, e-mail: office@newmediapress.ro

Our organisation and affiliates advocate publicly for the integrity and fairness of the competitions, the respect for the human right in sport in accordance with the statutes of FIFA and European and Romanian legislation.

That is why we are addressing you for clarification on the most important issues of the football association in Romania. First, we will give you a brief overview of the state of play in Romanian football.

Four years ago, Mr. RĂZVAN BURLEANU was elected President of Football Romanian Federation (FRF), member association of UEFA and FIFA. After three months, long before his confirmation by the Bucharest Court of Appeal, Mr. Burleanu convened the Extraordinary General Assembly of the FRF to amend the Statute, stating publicly that he had received FIFA approval for the implementation of proposed modifications. This amendments were approved by the General Assembly and they are now part of the Statute of FRF, 2014 Edition (<http://frf.ro/public/images/uploads/files/Statut.pdf>).

In 2017, new amendments (<http://frf.ro/uploads/file/Propuneri%20modif%20Statut.pdf>) were approved by the General Assembly, but they are not yet in force, until their validation by the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

The Executive Committee of FRF was rejected by the Bucharest Court of Appeal ([http://portal.just.ro/2/SitePages/Dosar.aspx?id\\_dosar=300000000574836&id\\_inst=2](http://portal.just.ro/2/SitePages/Dosar.aspx?id_dosar=300000000574836&id_inst=2)) and legally does not represent FRF. Moreover, one of its members, Mr. AURAŞ BRAŞOVEANU, is a convicted criminal for public funds fraud, because he participated in the falsification of documents with the objective of financing of the Danube Galaţi Sports Club by the City Hall. The final decision was pronounced by the Galati Court of Appeal on June 1, 2016 ([http://portal.just.ro/44/SitePages/Dosar.aspx?id\\_dosar=1210000000102657&id\\_inst=44](http://portal.just.ro/44/SitePages/Dosar.aspx?id_dosar=1210000000102657&id_inst=44)).

Under these circumstances, the Executive Committee approved every month, including during competitions, amendments of the football regulations.

Furthermore, the implementation of the amendments requested by the FIFA and UEFA Joint Committee through the recommendation letter addressed to FRF in 2010 were almost totally

ignored. Also, the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne requiring amendments to the FRF Regulations in accordance with European law, in particular with regard to labor law, were ignored.

On April 18, 2018, elections are organized and the FRF General Assembly will elect the new leadership. There are three candidates for the position of President: Mr. Răzvan Burleanu (in office), Mr. Ioan Angelo Lupescu (former UEFA's chief technical officer and former general manager of FRF) and Mr. Marcel Pușcaș (FRF regional and commercial development manager).

The first two candidates are credited with the best chances of winning the election, as they both enjoy important political support.

Mr. Burleanu lost the support of the ruling party (the Social Democratic Party) and its leader (Mr. Liviu Dragnea) in favor of Mr. Lupescu but still enjoys political support in the territory, where the influence on the leaders of the FRF members is stronger.

This is particularly important because, through the amendments to the FRF Statute, the FRF General Assembly is composed of 70% of public law clubs and massively funded clubs by central and local government, represented by politicians.

But much more important is the support given to Mr Burleanu from the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) and intelligence services, which are in open conflict for power with the Social Democratic Party.

Four years ago, Mr. Burleanu escaped from the main contra-candidate, Mr. Gheorghe Popescu, the former captain of the Romania national football team, due to a DNA investigation, resulting in a criminal conviction.

Now the same scenario is staged. Mr. Burleanu has publicly disclosed FRF confidential contracts (<http://razvanburleanu.ro/>) proving alleged frauds committed by Mr. Lupescu (between 2008 and 2010) and the DNA has responded promptly (<http://www.prosport.ro/fotbal-intern/breaking-news-dna-a-descins-la-sediul-frf-ce-cauta-procurorii-anticoruptie-update-ce-spun-federalii-17064006>) / (<http://www.gsp.ro/fotbal/nationala/ultima-ora-procurorii-dna-au-descins-la-sediul-federatiei-romane-de-fotbal-534961.html>)

On the morning of March 14, 2018, DNA prosecutors descended to the FRF headquarters to pick up the documents. Instead, for months, several criminal complaints involving Mr. Burleanu, including at the DNA, in which members of FRF claim serious crimes were forgotten and investigations have not even begun.

This is the place where Mr. Burleanu administration led the football association in Romania: a battleground for tens of millions euros from public money and political power.

That is why we ask you for concrete answers to the following questions:

1. Does FIFA, by Statutes, accepts the political mix in football association?
2. Does FIFA accepts the affiliation of public-law clubs (public schools, high schools and universities, town, municipalities and central governmental departments structures, military units) in ranks of its member associations?

3. Does FIFA accepts the affiliation of clubs with other sports disciplines (e.g. handball, basketball, rugby, judo, etc.) alongside football? (This is a real problem from financial fair-play point of view)? Or just football clubs?
4. Does FIFA accepts decision-making control of the clubs through public funding by the local and central government?
5. Does FIFA agrees with European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, who stated as follow on July 4, 2016: "Using tax payers' money to finance professional football clubs can create unfair competition. Professional football is a commercial activity with significant money involved and public money must comply with fair competition rules."
6. Does FIFA consider the uncontrolled public funding badly affect the integrity and fairness of the game and represent a threat to the very existence of the private funded clubs?
7. Does FIFA accepts in management of the member associations or clubs a convicted criminal offender or a person under prosecution?
8. Does FIFA accepts forced labor in football association? By forcing the minors and young players to sign contracts with their forming clubs, in the conditions imposed by the clubs (**Article 14** of the FRF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Football Players (RSTJF) - [http://frf.ro/uploads/file/RSTJF%20actualizat%2012\\_2016.pdf](http://frf.ro/uploads/file/RSTJF%20actualizat%2012_2016.pdf))?
9. Does FIFA accepts the double legitimation of players, directly or under masked form? (<http://frf.ro/uploads/file/Asocierea%20cluburilor%202017.doc>)
10. Does FIFA accepts the violation of procedural rights of the clubs and other stakeholders by subordination of jurisdictional bodies to the interests of FRF leaders?
11. Does FIFA considers that discrimination for financial reasons is a restriction of free access to justice?

These are just 11 questions that we need an authorized response. We are at your disposal at any time and can provide you with extensive documentation on the issues raised above.

Finally, we would like to confirm us if some of the football association problems in Romania have already been reported by FRF members made (such as the AS Progresul Bucharest FC) and complaints have been officially made.

Bucharest,  
14.03.2018

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