



FIFPro announces launch of #GameChangers

Global initiative aims to promote a more sustainable and inclusive vision for football

Bethesda, MD, January 13, 2016 – FIFPro, the union which represents 65,000 professional footballers around the world, today launches #GameChangers, an initiative aimed at promoting dialogue on a new and more sustainable vision for the game.

The scheme, backed by FIFPro's member unions worldwide, seeks to address the governance crisis which has undermined the image of professional football.

Despite years of huge revenue growth in the game, the sporting and financial gulf between the richest and poorest clubs and leagues continues to grow. At the same time, the development of balanced and effective standards of governance in the game has not kept pace with the speed of economic progress.

Twenty years on from the Bosman ruling, FIFPro is committed to tackling the inequalities and injustices that too many players face on a daily basis.

Theo van Seggelen, Secretary-General of FIFPro, said: *"Today our industry is faced with inadequate governance structures which have allowed abusive commercial practices to flourish and failed to protect and be accountable to players, clubs and fans. It is time for change."*

The failings of the current transfer system are the latest symptom of the mismanagement of football by the sport's ruling bodies. The transfer system fails in its objective to redistribute income throughout the football pyramid and encourages financial speculation that overlooks the rights of players. It also leads to damaging side-effects, from third-party ownership of players and trafficking of minors, to speculative buy-outs of clubs to profit from transfer fees.

#GameChangers aims to help players, clubs, fans and other stakeholders to create a more sustainable game for all.

"For far too long, FIFA, national associations and clubs have ignored all these concerns. #GameChangers is a turning point. It is time for us to act decisively and work together with all stakeholders in developing a bold vision for the future of the game, based on collective agreements between players and the sport's administrators. We need a system that is fairer and which meets the modern needs of the football industry," added **Theo van Seggelen**

The launch of the #GameChangers initiative is a result of a thorough analysis of the many problems football has faced for years and the industry's lack of progress in tackling the cause of these problems.

For more information on the #GameChangers initiative, please click [here](#).

PRESS RELEASE

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About FIFPro

FIFPro is the worldwide representative organisation for all professional footballers; more than 65,000 players in total, male and female. The World Players' Union currently has 58 national players' associations as their members.

About The Major League Soccer Players Union

The Major League Soccer Players Union, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, is the exclusive bargaining representative for all Major League Soccer players. For more information about the Players Union, log on to its website at www.mlssplayers.org.