



PREZYDENT MIASTA KRAKOWA

IP-07.0542.1.47.2012

Kraków, 2012 06. 13

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The City of Krakow will always support the fight against racism and will not allow the growth of this ideology on our stadiums. That is why, to my great surprise I read your letter which reached the Municipality of Krakow via email on June 10. Its content was inaccurate and is in some respects untrue, therefore, it requires explanation.

The open training session of the Netherlands national team took place on June 6 at the Wisła Stadium and not, as you wrote, on June 7. It was organized by the LOC UEFA EURO 2012 Polska. The Municipality of Krakow did not organize or co-organize this session. According to the UEFA EURO 2012 report, 24 400 people participated in the open training session, including the audience of 23 900 fans, 400 journalists and 100 officials. Approximately 15 000 people were children.

The session began at 5.30 p.m. It continued in a friendly, enthusiastic atmosphere, which was confirmed by the players and representatives of KNVB at the press conference after the session ended.

At the very beginning of the session a group of 30-40 people started making noise and shouting against their local opponents – their rival club Cracovia, as well as against the UEFA EURO 2012 tournament and it being organized in Poland. The group had a white flag with a crossed out logo of the UEFA EURO 2012. Immediately after the situation occurred a representative of UEFA EURO 2012 Polska contacted a safety officer present at the stadium and consulted him as to whether there should be an intervention against the group of people or not. However, due to the fact that there was no breach of law (including acts of racism, propagation of symbols or behavior which could be considered racist or indicating violence), basing on the decision of a UEFA EURO 2012 representative, the intervention did not take place. After 15 minutes, the group left the stadium. None of the people responsible for the organization of the open training session, i.e. the UEFA EURO 2012 Polska, representatives of KNVB, safety and emergency services or other people present at the stadium – including the remaining 24 thousand fans, neither of them noticed any racist behavior. People such as: Marcin Płachno – representative of UEFA EURO 2012 Polska, Piotr Klimczak – representative of the Sport Department at the Municipality of Krakow or Stan Valcks – representative of KNVB did not witness any manifestation of racism. Krakow police went through the video monitoring records at the stadium, as well as through media records of the training – the theory of alleged manifestations of racism has not been confirmed by any of these sources. First reports of the alleged racist incident appeared two days after the training. In this context, the lack of immediate reaction from the UEFA and lack of correction of these records arouse astonishment.

You request that actions are taken in order to increase police presence during possible further training sessions. Dear Mr. Secretary, I would respectfully like to remind you that the LOC UEFA EURO 2012 is the organizer of training sessions and according to the Polish law they are

solely responsible for the safety, organization and course of open training sessions. Police is not responsible for safety at the stadium – indeed, it is ready for a case of emergency or possible intervention, however this can only happen at the organizer's request.

Therefore, we strongly insist on a reliable and efficient security at the next training session in order to avoid similar situations, on acting in accordance with the Polish law, and in case of illegal acts, we insist on effective intervention of security services employed by the organizer, informing the police and Prosecutor's Office of an occurrence of illegal act.

Dear Mr. Secretary, it is worth noticing the fact that the remaining two sessions happened in an equally wonderful atmosphere, witnessed by fans of Italy and England, and also without any racist incidents.

Presenting Krakow as a city where racist incidents take place is extremely unfair. Krakow is a city of many centuries' and multi-cultural tradition, for centuries it was the hub of European Jews, particularly important as a place of development of Central European culture. UEFA disseminating information on incidents which did not take place is particularly harmful to the image of our city. Therefore, it is our expectation that UEFA issues a statement and correction on the matter.

Krakow is a reliable partner who made a lot of effort, financial contribution, as well as intellectual and emotional input in order for this festival of sport which is the final UEFA EURO 2012 tournament to be professionally prepared to the benefit of all partners. The crowds of Krakow inhabitants who participated in the training sessions and cheered for all the teams staying in Krakow do not deserve the constantly repeated false allegations of a reputed racist incident during the Dutch representation's training session. Therefore, we request that all the parties involved in the UEFA EURO 2012 stop referring to untrue events in the media and official statements. This is what is required by both fairness and law.

Yours sincerely

PREZYDENT MIASTA KRAKOWA

Jacek Majchrowski

Communications to:

1. Addressee
2. file