

## FAN VIOLENCE: THE NEW GREEK LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO COMBAT IT AND THE INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE!

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**Abstract:** *The New Greek legislation against violence in sports and similarly, preventive measures and sanctions foreseen in other UEFA member countries to address the phenomenon, particularly in football!*

**Keywords:** *violence, UEFA, FIFA, Football, EU.*

This article is about the Legal Framework against violence in football and similarly preventive measures and sanctions foreseen in the following UEFA member countries and EU to address the phenomenon especially in football:

### Greece

In Greece, the initial legislative effort to combat hooliganism began with the sports law 2725/1999 and Article 41ST, where paragraph 1 stipulates a penalty of *"imprisonment for two years as well as a fine, unless a more severe penalty is provided for by another provision, for anyone who intentionally causes damage within sports facilities, commits violence against other fans, and possesses or uses flares and smoke bombs that can cause bodily harm."* Law 2725/1999 served as a milestone, but the recent law 5025/2023 represents the government's new legislative initiative on combating violence in sports. According to Deputy Minister of Sports Giannis Vroutsis, *"support is essential from both football clubs and the entire football community!"*

According to the new law, among other provisions, the Permanent Committee for Combating Violence (D.E.A.V.) has been restructured. In compliance with the Council of Europe's Saint-Denis Convention, it now consists of five members with an equal number of substitutes, comprising judges, legal experts, and officers from the Hellenic Police. Additionally, an Electronic Platform has been established to support its work in collaboration with the Hellenic Police, enabling ΔΕΑΒ to function preventatively in addressing the phenomenon.

Specifically, upon recommendation from D.E.A.V. and based on reports from its observers and the Hellenic Police, automated preventive measures for incidents of group violence, such as the throwing of flammable materials, are imposed by the Ministry of Sports within its jurisdiction.

The new legislation introduced under Law 5085/2024 respects the autonomy of football and delineates the boundaries between the disciplinary jurisdic-

tion of the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) and the organizing authority, and the administrative jurisdiction of the Greek State.

**Specifically:**

- Establishment of the Permanent Committee for Combating Violence (D.E.A.V.): Established by Article 41A of Law 2725/1999 (A' 121), as currently in force, this committee is comprehensively detailed in this and other articles of the law regarding its role, responsibilities, and functions as the primary State body for addressing violence in sports.
- Formation of the Enhanced D.E.A.V.: By Ministerial Decision No. 3930/08-02-2024, the upgraded D.E.A.V. was formed with five regular and five alternate members.
- Transformation of D.E.A.V.'s Powers: In accordance with Law 5085/2024, D.E.A.V.'s powers have been elevated from advisory-recommendatory to jurisdictional powers, enabling it to impose administrative penalties and fines. Additionally, from 06/03/2024, as per Article 8 of Law 5085/2024, an electronic platform has been operational through which the police verify the functionality of the electronic surveillance systems (cameras) of sports facilities. This process includes the imposition of penalties on teams in the Super League 1 and Basket League for non-compliance.
- Retention of Previous Duties: According to the D.E.A.V. Operating Regulation (Government Gazette B' 446/2006), D.E.A.V. retains all its previous responsibilities, including Special Observer Corps, determining match risk levels, and issuing opinions on the prohibition of fan travel across all team sports.
- Collaboration: D.E.A.V. collaborates with organizing authorities, sports federations, professional associations of sports anonymous companies (S.A.E.), remunerated athlete departments (T.A.A.), unions and representation bodies of athletes, referees, coaches, and fans, as well as the Panhellenic Association of Sports Journalists (P.S.A.T.). Furthermore, it cooperates with the police, judiciary (Sports Prosecutors), and relevant State agencies and services.
- Support from Special Observer Corps: D.E.A.V.'s work is supported by its Special Observer Corps, as provided by Article 41A of Law 2725/1999 as amended. Observers prepare reports on events occurring at matches where they are assigned, in cooperation with the police and other involved entities, which they submit to D.E.A.V., which then forwards them to the appropriate jurisdictional bodies of each sport. The Observers act as the "eyes and ears" of the State regarding events in the sports venues of the five team sports conducted in the country, namely, Football,

Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, and Water Polo, for which D.E.A.V. has jurisdiction.

### **Emphasis on Specific Measures:**

- **Administrative Penalties:** The penalties imposed are of an administrative nature rather than disciplinary. Therefore, the disciplinary bodies of the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) and the competent administrative authorities operate entirely separately and independently.
- **Spectator-Free Matches:** The penalty of conducting a match without spectators is applied only in cases of the throwing of flammable objects or objects capable of causing bodily harm.
- **Stadium Security Measures:** Given that the introduction of such objects into the stadium demonstrates insufficient control of spectators at the entrance, the Greek government has prioritized strengthening the framework for security checks and identity verification of each fan entering the stadium. Concurrently, the system of electronic surveillance (cameras) has been enhanced and made more stringent across all Super League 1 and Basket League stadiums.

Similarly, preventive measures and sanctions are naturally foreseen in other UEFA member countries to address this phenomenon, particularly in football, summarized as follows:

### **Italy**

In Italy, the combat against violence in sports has been vigorously pursued in recent years through a series of regulatory measures that have introduced new legal and operational tools for law enforcement agencies. Most cases of sports-related crimes are covered under Law No. 401 of December 13, 1989, concerning interventions in the sector of illegal gambling and betting and the protection of integrity in the conduct of sports events.

The primary instrument, governed by Article 6 of the aforementioned Law No. 401 of 1989, is the Stadium Ban (D.A.SPO.), which was amended by Legislative Decree No. 8 of February 8, 2007, and converted into law by Law No. 41 of April 4, 2007 (the so-called "Amato Law"), following the tragic events that led to the death of State Police Inspector Filippo Raciti in February 2007, after the Catania-Palermo football match. DASPO is the acronym for "Divieto di Accesso alle manifestazioni SPORtive" (Prohibition of Access to Sports Events), commonly referred to as Daspo. It is an administrative penalty that can be imposed on individuals who commit certain offenses during sports events, such as violence, racism, or throwing objects.

Specifically, this measure applies to individuals who have been reported or

previously convicted within the past five years or who exhibit behavior indicative of a threat to public order and safety. For these individuals, the Police Commissioner can order a ban on access to venues where specific sports events are held, as well as on transit or transport routes for those participating in or attending such events. The Commissioner can also require recipients of the DASPO to appear personally one or more times at specified times at the relevant police station during the days when the events for which the ban is in effect are taking place. The measure can also be ordered by the judicial authority upon conviction for crimes committed on the occasion or due to sports events or during transfers to or from the locations where such events take place, for a period of two to eight years. The provisional penalty ordering the prohibition of access to venues where sports events take place is immediately enforceable.

DASPO can also be ordered preemptively against anyone who, based on objective elements, appears to have engaged in behavior aiming at active participation in violent incidents during sports events or that endangers public safety on occasion or due to the events themselves. The DASPO entails a ban on access to all sports events for a period ranging from six months to five years, depending on the severity of the offense committed. During the ban period, the punished individual cannot enter stadiums or participate in other sports events, under the penalty of more severe criminal sanctions.

DASPO was introduced in Italy in 1989 to combat violence in stadiums and was subsequently extended to other crimes committed during sports events. Its implementation is governed by Italian law, and the sanction is decided by an administrative authority, usually the Prefect of the province where the crime occurred.

If the punished individual violates the DASPO and attempts to access a sports event, they may commit a criminal offense and face imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of up to €1,032, according to Article 12-a of Law 401/89.

It is possible to appeal against the DASPO. The punished individual has the right to challenge the decision of the competent administrative authority by filing an appeal with the Regional Administrative Court (TAR) within 60 days of the sanction notification.

The appeal must be written and substantiated, stating the reasons why the imposed sanction is unjust or excessive. The TAR judge will evaluate whether the sanction was correctly and lawfully imposed and will decide to confirm, annul, or modify the decision of the administrative authority.

In any case, it is important to note that the appeal does not suspend the sanction. This means that, even if one decides to appeal the decision, the ban on access to all sports events remains in force until the judge's final decision.<sup>1</sup>

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1. <https://penalistacassazionista.it/cosa-e-il-daspo/>

## Portugal

In Portugal, the law regulating violence related to sports has established a socialized administrative authority responsible for enforcing the applicable law, known by the Portuguese acronym "APCVD", which stands for "Autoridade para a Prevenção e Combate à Violência no Desporto" (Authority for the Prevention and Combat of Violence in Sports).

This Authority for the Prevention and Combat of Violence in Sports collaborates closely with a specialized department of the Public Security Police (PSP - Polícia de Segurança Pública), which is the National Police of Portugal. This department is known as "PNID - Ponto Nacional de Informações sobre o Desporto" (National Sports Information Point). Together, these entities publish an annual report on statistics related to law violation proceedings.

On an administrative level, APCVD has the authority to initiate sanction procedures against those who violate the law, imposing fines. Subsequently, APCVD decisions can be appealed in court.

According to the regulatory decree that established APCVD (Regulatory Decree No. 10/2018, October 3), the legal mission of APCVD is to prevent and monitor compliance with the legal regime for combating violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance in sports events to ensure their safe conduct. Additionally, according to this Regulatory Decree, APCVD's competencies include:

a) Exercising, within the framework of the legal regime for combating violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance at sports events, all legally established registration duties, as well as supervision, control, and sanctioning duties associated with these, in cooperation with security forces.

b) Ensuring the initiation of administrative offense proceedings and the application of fines and additional penalties within the scope of the legal regime for combating violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance at sports events.

c) Promoting activities related to creating a sports environment based on high ethical principles and values.

d) Issuing scientific and technical opinions, recommendations, and warnings, particularly on matters related to the prevention and combat of violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance at sports events.

e) Studying and proposing appropriate legislative and administrative measures related to the prevention and combat of violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance at sports events.

In summary, the legal regime for sports-related violence in Portugal includes three types of offenses:

a) Criminal offenses (falling under the jurisdiction of the Public Prosecutor and the Criminal Court, not APCVD).

b) Administrative offenses (under the jurisdiction of APCVD).

c) Disciplinary offenses (falling under the jurisdiction of the Portuguese Football Federation / Professional Football League, not APCVD)<sup>2</sup>.

*Organization Chart APCVD*



**United Kingdom:**

In the United Kingdom, the memory of the Hillsborough massacre in 1985 still burns, named after the Brussels stadium that hosted the European Cup final between Juventus and Liverpool. In that instance, hooligans broke through barriers, stampedes ensued among the fleeing crowds, resulting in 39 dead and 600 injured, nearly all Italians. Following the tragedy, numerous measures were introduced in England. With the 'Sporting Event Act' of the same year, alcohol introduction into stadiums was prohibited, while the 'Public Order Act' of 1986 empowered the judiciary to ban attendance at sporting events by individuals deemed violent, compelling them to sign in with the police.

In subsequent years, similar measures followed suit. In 1989, after the Hillsborough disaster claimed the lives of 96 Liverpool fans, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher intensified measures against hooligan behavior. Since then, anyone convicted of football-related offenses could no longer attend sporting events outside England and Wales, requiring proof of identity for stadium entry—a significant measure considering that in the UK, there is no legal obligation to carry identification. Additionally, a specialized unit for monitoring ultras was established within the Scotland Yard, and clubs were forced to renovate stadiums by removing barriers between the pitch and stands, which, as explained

2. <https://www.apcvd.gov.pt>

by the scientific association Pallium Onlus, 'are dangerous in case of accidents and contribute to the accumulation of negative tensions in the spectator, which can lead to violence,' and by replacing the stands with numbered seats. Control was also ensured with a closed-circuit camera system.

At that time, Britain focused heavily on holding teams responsible, to the extent of entrusting them with monitoring within stadiums. Private referees paid directly by the clubs are in 'radio' communication with the police who remain present only outside the stadiums. Today, English police have the power to arrest and immediately expel fans even for verbal violence.

The 'Football (Offences) Act' of 1991 stipulated a series of offenses specifically related to incidents at football matches. Specifically, it prohibits the throwing of missiles, racist or obscene chants, and entering the playing area or its surrounding vicinity.

This legislation applies to games involving either a national team or at least one team from the Premier League, Football League, Conference, or the Welsh League. It clarifies that the law relates to acts committed at a stadium within a time frame starting two hours before the start of a match and ending one hour after its conclusion.

Throwing missiles. It is a specific offense for someone to throw anything towards the playing area or the adjacent area without lawful authority or excuse. It is also an offense to throw anything towards any area where spectators or other persons are or may be present. The law makes it clear that this offense includes throwing any object and does not specify a specific list of objects that cannot be thrown.

Indecent or racist chants. The law specifically prevents chants of this kind. Racism is defined as something that is threatening, abusive, or insulting to a person because of their color, race, nationality, or ethnic or national origin. Chants include the action of one or more individuals and are defined as the repeated utterance of any words or sounds. Anyone acting in this way cannot be considered to be acting with lawful authority.

Entering the playing area. It is a violation to enter the playing area during a match. This prohibition also extends to the area adjacent to the playing area where spectators are not usually admitted. In this case, the law makes it clear that the offense is not established if a person can prove that they were acting with lawful authority or indeed a lawful excuse.

Conviction for football ground Cases prosecuted under this Act must be adjudicated in a Magistrates' Court. The maximum penalty that a Court can impose for an offense under the Football (Offences) Act 1991 is a fine of up to £1,000. Of course, when imposing any kind of financial penalty, the Court must take into account the financial situation of an individual. Each of the offenses mentioned above is offenses for which the Court must issue a football match prohibition order if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it would assist in the prevention of violence or disorder at football matches.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) operates throughout England and Wales, with 14 regional teams prosecuting cases at a local level. Each of these 14 CPS areas is managed by a Chief Prosecutor and works closely with local police forces and other criminal justice partners.<sup>3</sup>

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) prosecutes criminal cases investigated by the police and other investigative agencies in England and Wales. The CPS operates independently and makes decisions autonomously, separate from both the police and the government. Its duty is to ensure that the right person is prosecuted for the right offense and to bring offenders to justice wherever possible.

The CPS:

- Decides which cases should be prosecuted
- Determines appropriate charges in more serious or complex cases and advises the police during the early stages of investigations
- Prepares cases and presents them in court
- Provides information, assistance, and support to victims and witnesses.

Prosecutors must be fair, objective, and independent. When deciding whether to prosecute, their lawyers must follow the Crown Prosecution Service Code. This means that for someone to be charged with a criminal offense, prosecutors must ensure there is sufficient evidence providing a realistic prospect of conviction and that prosecution is in the public interest.

The CPS works closely with the police, courts, judiciary, and other partners to deliver justice.

Additionally, Section 27 of the Crime Reduction Act 2006 grants police powers to remove individuals from a specific area for up to 48 hours.

## Germany

Germany has partially adopted the Anglo-Saxon model, which, in recent years, has renovated sports facilities by removing barriers between the pitch and the stands. In addition to cameras, there are special rooms with screens controlled by the police. Furthermore, there is reliance on the support of referees paid by the teams themselves.

In Germany, there is no national law specifically governing stadium security, and the government has opted for a project aimed at encouraging self-discipline and responsibility among fans themselves. Regional authorities decide when police presence is necessary for matches deemed at risk, while clubs assist in identifying the most violent fans who, in case of disturbance, can be indefinitely banned from stadiums.

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3. <https://www.cps.gov.uk/about-cps/cps-areas-cps-direct-cps-central-casework-divisions-and-cps-proceeds-crime>

## Spain

In Spain, “the State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance in Sports” operated until 2007. It was succeeded by “the National Commission against Violence in Sports Events”, commonly known in the Spanish media and broadly as the Commission against Violence, established by Royal Decree 748/2008. Although foreseen in the Sports Law of 1992, its duties include playing "a very active and relevant role in the prevention of violence related to sports." Among its direct responsibilities are proposing sanctioning procedures and declaring high-risk sports events.

Composed of "representatives of various public administrations, Spanish sports federations or professional championships directly affected, as well as individuals of recognized stature in the field of sports and security," it was created to meet the requirements of the "European Convention on violence and disruption by spectators at sports events, and especially football matches," adopted in Strasbourg on August 19, 1985.<sup>4</sup>

The Permanent Committee is a central body in the usual operation of the Commission, bearing significant executive weight. It convenes frequently - once every two weeks - to analyze recent events and propose, where necessary, disciplinary proceedings when the events analyzed constitute violations. It also recommends which sports events should be classified as high-risk.

In addition to these functions, the royal decree grants the Commission the authority to appeal before the Administrative Sports Court against acts issued by sports federations on this matter, enabling the Commission to appeal against acts approved by any federation disciplinary body without the need to exhaust sports channels.

From a regulatory and legal security perspective, the possibility of unifying new organizational regulations, composition, and operation of the State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance in Sports in new texts was followed.

Finally, on November 24, 2011, the Permanent Committee approved the “Action Protocol” for restoring normality in matches, trials, or sports events referred to in Article 15.2 of Law 19/2007, against violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance in sports<sup>5</sup>.

*It is the responsibility of the State Commission against Violence to impose on clubs the payment of additional police forces in the case of potentially dangerous matches. Moreover, the introduction of flags and banners into Spanish stadiums*

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4. [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comisi3n\\_Antiviolen3a](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comisi3n_Antiviolen3a)

5. <https://www.csd.gob.es/es/csd/organos-colegiados/comision-estatal-contra-la-violencia-el-racismo-la-xenofobia-y-la-intolerancia-en-el-deporte>

*is prohibited, and the most violent fans can be banned from stadiums for three, six, or more months.*

## **France**

France adopted a law against violence in sports in 1993 and has developed stricter rules since 2003. For example, anyone who destroys public property risks imprisonment for up to 5 years, and anyone who violates the prohibition on attending matches may face imprisonment for 2 years. Additionally, throwing objects or bringing knives, sticks, or poles into the stadium is prohibited.<sup>6</sup>

There are three types of bans in stadiums: administrative, judicial, and civil.

In the medium term, the possibility of creating a fixed penalty for offenses (AFD) is being considered. A fixed penalty is a criminal sanction imposed, outside of a trial, by a police officer, park ranger, or public official of the authority observing a violation. It will enable sanctions for offenses provided for in Article 332-8 of the Sports Code: the introduction, possession, and use of rockets or fireworks of any kind in a sports venue. This fixed penalty consists of paying a monetary sum to the Public Treasury<sup>7</sup>.

In France, as mentioned, they had to wait for the Alliot-Marie law of 1993 for a first legislative measure focused on the safety of sports events, even though the Evin law of 1991 had already banished alcohol from stadiums. Current events here are also driving the government to act. On August 28, during a PSG-Caen meeting at Parc des Princes, CRS deployed in the docks to prevent a possible invasion of the playing field were violently repulsed by Kop of Boulogne, a group of Parisian club supporters. There were about ten police officers injured.

While the Penal Code already allows punishment for certain criminal behaviors such as incitement to hatred, violence, damage, or even public disorder in Marseille, the PSG-Caen incident necessitated specific legislative measures for sports events and the French hooliganism thriving at that time. The Alliot-Marie law, passed four months later, introduces an "additional stadium ban," which can be imposed in addition to a conviction for an offense committed during a sports event. In essence, it's a repressive, non-preventative measure that can only be decided supplementary to a conviction. This ban cannot exceed five years.

As the 1998 World Cup approached, its scope expanded to include offenses committed around sports venues and places where matches are publicly broadcasted. Since 2006, individuals can be summoned to legal proceedings during

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6. <https://www.eunews.it/2014/05/06/violenza-negli-stadi-ecco-come-la-combattono-negli-altri-paesi-europei/>

7. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/archives/actualites/communiqués-de-presse/renforcement-de-lutte-contre-violences-dans-stades>

a sports event. Additionally, in 2007, a national stadium ban file (FNIS) was created.

The Pasqua law of 1995 pushed clubs to demonstrate greater responsibility by defining their role in ensuring the safety of individuals at stadiums. It is accompanied by a circular requiring organizers to provide security.

However, it was in 2006 that a significant step was taken in preventing excesses when the law of January 23, related to combating terrorism, introduced an administrative ban in stadiums, allowing prefects to keep people away from sports events whose previous behavior raises fears of further disturbances to public order. Non-compliance with this ban is punishable by one year's imprisonment, and the ban period can be extended to 24 months in case of recidivism. The law on gangs of March 14, 2011, known as, goes even further, no longer restricting the ban to stadiums and their surroundings, but offering authorities the ability to limit the freedom of "individuals" to come and go who claim to support a team or behave as such at a sports event, and whose presence is likely to cause serious disturbances to public order. The prefect is also required to communicate information to sports federations about people who are subject to a stadium ban<sup>8</sup>.

### **The Council of Europe (CoE)**

The Council of Europe (CoE) acts decisively against negative aspects of sports, notably violence and doping, through two key conventions: the "European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events and in Particular at Football Matches (ETS No. 120)" and the "Convention against Doping in Sport (ETS No. 135)."

Violence represents the most common human rights violation affecting all individuals. Combatting and preventing violence, in any form it takes, stands as a cornerstone of CoE priorities. Initially, in 1983, the Council expressed its determination to combat sports-related violence through a parliamentary assembly recommendation focusing on cultural and educational means of reducing violence.

In response, the Committee of Ministers supported measures in 1984 aimed at reducing spectator violence at sports events, particularly football matches. The tragic Heysel disaster in May 1985 underscored the urgent need for such actions. Consequently, on August 19, 1985, the European Convention on spectator violence and misbehavior at sports events, specifically football matches, was swiftly signed in Strasbourg and entered into force on November 1, 1985.

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8. <https://www.publicsenat.fr/actualites/societe/violences-dans-les-stades-retour-sur-une-tres-longue-evolution-legislative-191331>

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F32962>

More than three decades since its inception, significant progress has been achieved. National legislation and security regulations increasingly comply with the recommendations of the European Convention. Management of supporters has improved significantly, reducing the risk of such disasters.

The Standing Committee (T-RV), responsible for implementing the Convention, evolved from a security approach to later encompass a service-oriented approach. This evolution allowed for the drafting of the new Convention on a comprehensive approach to security, safety, and service at football matches and other sports events.

The Convention mandates states to implement practical measures to prevent and control violence and misbehavior by spectators. It also includes measures for identifying and addressing offenders.

The Standing Committee monitors the Convention's implementation, evaluating progress achieved. It visits countries, observes high-risk matches, discusses issues with key stakeholders, and assesses existing measures. Recommendations for improvements are made when necessary. Over the last three decades, the Committee has approved 26 recommendations, highlighting the gradual importance placed on addressing safety and service issues.

In 2015, a significant recommendation (Rec(2015)1) was adopted, consolidating all major guidelines provided by the Committee during its thirty-year existence, along with an impressive collection of best practices. Efforts by the states to ensure safety and security at sports events have been emphasized. The latest update of Rec(2015)1 was adopted in 2020.

All these efforts paved the way for the adoption of a new Convention in 2016, focusing on a comprehensive and multi-service approach to safety, security, and service at football matches and other sports events, known as “the Saint-Denis Convention”<sup>9</sup>.

The Saint-Denis Convention is gradually replacing the 1985 Convention, as each member state ratifying the new Convention must denounce the old one<sup>10</sup>.

According to Article 3 of the "European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events and in Particular at Football Matches"<sup>11</sup>.

*"Article 3 – Measures 1 Parties undertake to ensure the establishment and implementation of measures aimed at preventing and controlling violence and misbehavior by spectators, including in particular: A. Ensuring that adequate public order resources are used to address incidents of violence and misconduct, both in immediate proximity and within stadiums and along ingress routes used by spectators; B. Facilitating close cooperation*

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9. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/safety-security-and-service-approach-convention>

10. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/violence-convention>

11. <https://rm.coe.int/168007a086>

*and exchange of relevant information among law enforcement authorities of the various areas involved or likely to become involved; C. The adoption or, where necessary, enactment of legislation providing for persons found guilty of offenses related to violence or misbehavior by spectators to be appropriately punished or, as the case may be, the appropriate administrative measures."*

## **Conclusion**

UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin, on August 16, 2023, a few days after a man was killed in clashes before the football match between AEK and Dinamo Zagreb in Greece, urged Europe to assist in eradicating hooliganism, which he referred to as "*the cancer of football*."

Following a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens, Čeferin stated that the problem is pan-European and requires cooperation to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. "This is the cancer of football, and these are not football fans," Čeferin emphasized. "We have reached a point where we must say enough... we must stop this." "Violence and hooliganism are not only a Greek problem," he underscored, adding that European countries, institutions, and media outlets needed to collaborate to help end football violence. More than 100 people, mostly Croatian citizens, were charged with crimes and held pending trial for the clashes that led to the fatal stabbing of 29-year-old AEK fan Michalis Katsouris in Athens. Conversely, the detentions have strained relations between Greece and Croatia politically<sup>12</sup>.

In conclusion, it is noted that most UEFA member countries provide in their legislation not only criminal and administrative sanctions but also civil measures, while some provide for civil ones.

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12. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/uefas-ceferin-calls-europe-end-cancer-soccer-violence-2023-08-16/> <https://bnnbreaking.com/world/greece/uefa-and-top-clubs-stand-united-against-fan-violence-a-game-changer-in-football/>