

To the attention of President of UEFA, Mr. Aleksander Čeferin,

Euskal Herria Bildu (EH Bildu) is the second main political party in Bilbao's City Hall as in the whole Basque Country. We are witting to you to welcome you to our city and call you upon to become an important active so that the Basque national soccer team is be able to officially participate in the UEFA's competitions. We are talking, of course, about the European Championship 2020 and the correspondent league table that precedes it, including the welcome gala where our national team will welcome you, as the great and passionate hosts we are, here at the Stadium of San Mamés.

We belong to a city and country intensely rooted to soccer. Athletic Club is one of the main icons in Bilbao and its supporters are a reference in whole Europe. Proof of which was the massive moving to Manchester last march 2012, or the exemplary behavior during the UEFA Europe League final celebrated in Bucarest in May of that same year. Bilbao lives soccer with passion considering that Basques truly love sports.

We have no doubt that Bilbao will be a perfect headquarters for the European Championship 2020, but we strongly believe it would be even better if the Basque National Team were allowed to participate. It is also a **majority request of the Basque Parliament, supported by the main political parties, social movements and sport associations. According to many surveys a high percentage** of our society supports this request as well, and of course with a big backing of soccer players.

Between its members, UEFA itself has federations with no State representation; England, Wales, Scotland and North Ireland, or the most recent ones, Gibraltar and Faroe Islands. We also find the case of Kosovo, recognized only by 109 of the 193 members that conform the UN. There are also few examples of sport clubs as well: Monaco plays in Ligue 1, Swansea at the Premier League and Vaduz of Liechtenstein in Switzerland.

You come from a very tiny and beautiful country named Slovenia, quite similar in population and topography to ours. Your country has a tireless youth team, source of talent and inspiration for whole Europe. Us, Basques would like to compete with the rest of European national teams like your country does. Slovenia is an example we focus on, due to the sport legacy some of your compatriots left in the Basque Country: Dalibor Stevanovic, Jaka Blazic or Sasha Vujacic.

Therefore, **we request you remove the veto so that Basque soccer national teams can have full rights to become members of the UEFA**, being able to be hosts of the coming UEFA Euro 2020 in Bilbao. We hope you become an important ally to us, this way, European soccer will have a new high level team among its members and we will get one of the bests soccer supporters in the world.

Finally, we want to lend you a hand for future friendly and fluid contacts with you, as much as with UEFA.

Yours faithfully,

Aitziber Ibaibarriaga Etxebarrieta

Aleksander Ceferin UEFAko presidenteari,

Euskal Herria Bildu, bigarren indar politikoa Bilbon eta Euskal Herrian, zugana zuzentzen da gure hirira ongietorria emateko eta, bide batez, zure laguntza eskatzeko euskal futbol selekzioek modu ofizialen UEFAko txapelketetan parte hartzeko aukera izan dezaten. Horien artean, noski, UEFA Euro 2020 txapelketa eta klasifikazio fasea. Horrek ahalbidetuko luke gero San Mamesen anfitrioi on bat bezala aritzea.

Gure hiria eta herria futbolarekin estuki lotuta daude. Athletic Bilboko ikono handienetarikoa da eta bere zaleak erreferentzia dira Europa osoan. Horren adibide 2012ko martxoan Manchesterrera joandako zale kopuru handia edota, urte berean, Bucaresteko finalean zaleek erakutsitako jarrera. Bilbok pasioz bizi du futbola, izan ere euskaldunok kirol hori maite dugu.

Ez dugu zalantzarik Bilbo UEFA Euro 2020rako egoitza ona izango dela, baina uste dugu hobe izango litzatekeela euskal selekzioak parte hartu ahal izango balu. **Eusko Legebiltzarraren gehiengoak horrela eskatu du, alderdi nagusiek, mugimendu sozialek eta kirol taldeek eta jokalariek askok babestuta, gizartearen hein handi batek bezala** hainbat inkestek erakutsi duten moduan.

UEFAren barnean badaude Estatu bat ordezkatzeko ez duten federazioak. Horrela gertatu izan da Ingalaterrarekin, Galesekin, Eskoziarekin edo Ipar Irlandarekin. Baita ere, geroago, Gibraltar edo Feroe Uharteekin. Hor dago, baita ere, Kosovoren kasua. NBE osatzen duten 193 estatuetatik 109k bakarrik onartzen dute. Futbol talde mailan ere hainbat kasu daude. Horra hor Ligue 1-en jokatzen duen Monaco, Swansea Premier League-an eta Liechtenstein-eko Vaduz Suitzan.

Zu zeu Eslovenia bezalako herrialde txiki eta polit batetik zatoz. Gure herriaren populazioan eta orografian antz handia daukan herrialde batetik. Zuen harrobia eredu da Europa guztian. **Euskaldunoi ere gustatuko litzaiguke, zure herriak bezala, Europako beste selekzio batzuekin leihatzea.** Dalibor Stevanovic, Jaka Blazic edo Sasha Vujacic bezalako jokalariek utzitako ondareak zerikusia dauka zure herria guretzako ispilu izateko orduan.

Hori dela eta, euskal selekzioei betoa kentzea eskatzen dizugu eta, baita ere, UEFAren eskubide osoko kide izaten uztea. Horrela, esaterako, UEFA Euro 2020ko anfitrioi lana egin genezake. Bide horretan zu aliatu garrantzitsua izatea nahi dugu. Europako futbolak maila handiko selekzioa eta zaleak lortuko lituzke.

Besterik gabe agurtzen gara, etorkizunean zurekin eta UEFArekin harremana eusteko gogoarekin.

Eskerrik asko

Aitziber Ibaibarriaga Etxebarrieta