

ANDROULLA VASSILIOU
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 08.06.2010
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Dear Mr. Blatter,

With the kick-off, this week, of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, we are all given an opportunity to celebrate not only sporting excellence, but also the common values that unite us: fair play, respect and solidarity.

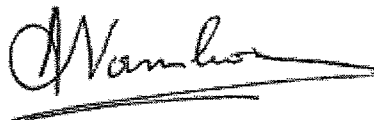
I am confident that you will achieve your goal of hosting an event that will have a lasting impact in Africa even after the competition's conclusion, both within the football world but also beyond, at the social and cultural level. In this respect, the European Commission will continue to work with FIFA and other partners on our shared objectives.

Sport, and particularly football, is a vehicle that can impact society like no other. I am certain that the tournament in South Africa will be a unique opportunity to come together in communicating that violence, racism and discrimination have no place in football and no place in today's world.

At the same time, we are all looking forward to watching the world's greatest players create an unforgettable spectacle on the pitch. The first ever World Cup to be staged on the African continent also promises to be the most lively, colourful and passionate yet. May the best team win!

I would like to wish you and your partners every success in the organisation of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and look forward to meeting you soon, and taking forward the close collaboration that the European Commission has developed with FIFA.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Joseph Blatter
President
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