

EN

E-003516/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(21.10.2026)

The Commission notes that Case C-333/21<sup>1</sup> involved the Union of European Football Associations' (UEFA) rules for the pre-authorisation of the organisation of and participation of clubs and sportspersons in rival interclub competitions organised by third party entities or undertakings. It did not involve any rules for access to UEFA's own interclub competitions. The Commission considers that therefore no conclusions can be drawn from Case C-333/21, including as regards the devolution by UEFA of the access decision to national associations.

The Commission respects the autonomy of sport organisations, including their responsibility for organising and regulating competitions, while ensuring compliance with EU law.

The principles of openness and sporting merit are important elements of the European Sport Model and their application within specific competitions falls primarily within the responsibility of the relevant sport organisations.

The Commission will continue to monitor developments and promote these principles through its dialogue with sport stakeholders.

---

<sup>1</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of 21 December 2023 in Case C-333/21, *European Superleague Company v. FIFA and UEFA*, ECLI:EU:C:2023:1011.