

# EMAILS from Damian Collins to Domenico Scala and back re 'legality' of presidential candidate forum in Brussels. Reverse order, start at the bottom.

Am 26.01.2016 um 10:27 schrieb COLLINS, Damian

Dear Domenico

It is normal, in elections, for candidates to seek clarification on the rules with the organisation or individual responsible for the conduct of the election.

In this case, we are told that a complaint about our event in Brussels has been made to FIFA, and that no guidance will be given on it one way or another.

Is this correct?

Kind regards

Damian

On 26/01/2016 09:20, "Domenico Scala" wrote:

Dear Damian,

With the risk of repeating myself: it is each candidate's responsibility to organize his campaign and 'rulings' are not foreseen because the conduct of each candidate is also governed by the ethics code

Best regards, Domenico

Am 26.01.2016 um 09:53 schrieb COLLINS, Damian

Dear Domenico

Thank you for your further reply.

I do not understand why you feel unable to answer my question.

If you are asked whether a candidate attending a particular event would be in breach of FIFA's rules, surely it is possible to give an answer. Without providing answers to these questions FIFA is effectively supporting those who do not want to see these events take place, to the detriment of those who want to take part in them.

In the case of our event tomorrow, candidates who want to take part have effectively been told that if they do they could at some point in the near future to be determined to have been in breach of the election rules. I think we both know that the event tomorrow is not in breach of FIFA's rules and no sanction would be applied to people who take part; so why not say so?

Kind regards

Damian

On 25/01/2016 18:19, "Domenico Scala" wrote:

Dear Damian,

We can only reply in abstract and general terms as we need to remain neutral on specific cases.

What I can add to your other comments is that the congress in February will vote on a set of very substantive governance reforms before the presidential election takes place. This means that a newly elected president will (hopefully) 'inherit' a set of important governance reforms. This applies therefore equally to all candidates.

Best regards,

On 25/01/2016 15:49, "COLLINS, Damian"

Dear Domenico

Many thanks for your reply.

In your view, is there any reason why candidates would not be allowed to participate in our debate at the European parliament if they want to do so.

Kind regards

Damian

On 25/01/2016 15:18, "Domenico Scala"

Dear Damian,

Thank you for this email and to bring this to my attention.

It remains the candidate's responsibility to organize their campaign. We oversee the electoral process and the applicable regulations.

Best regards, Domenico

Am 25.01.2016 um 12:04 schrieb COLLINS, Damian

Dear Domenico

I understand that you have received a complaint about the debate New FIFA Now has organised with the Sports Intergroup of the European Parliament in Brussels this Wednesday.

As you know it was our plan for there to be a debate between FIFA Presidential candidates as part our conference that day on FIFA reform.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received a complaint and also that it is planned that no official response will be given to it until after our meeting on Wednesday. The uncertainty that this position creates makes it effectively impossible for candidates who want to take part in this debate to participate. I find it incredible that we should be in this position given that invitations to the event were sent out months ago.

I think it is ridiculous for someone to assert that an informal debate in the European Parliament, a body which has no executive powers relating to sport, constitutes political interference in football. This event is merely an attempt to put legitimate questions to candidates for the FIFA Presidency. Given the ongoing investigations into FIFA and widespread concerns about its governance structure, I believe this is a legitimate debate not only for international parliamentarians, but for all those concerned about the future of football around the world.

If this debate should fail to go ahead, it will add to the impression that people at FIFA do not want open discussion about the future and reform of the organisation, or to subject Presidential candidates to the kind of questioning and scrutiny that would be normal in any organisation run on democratic principles.

I would welcome your guidance on this matter today, and in particular if you could confirm that there is no reason why FIFA Presidential candidates should not be allowed to participate in our event if they so wish.

Yours sincerely  
Damian

Damian Collins

MP for Folkestone and Hythe

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