



**Confédération Européenne de Volleyball**

To the attention of Mr BORICIC, President  
488, route de Longwy  
L-1940 Luxembourg  
**Luxembourg (LUX)**

Vilvoorde, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Regarding: dispute between the Belgian Federation and the Belgian Volleyball League

**Dear President,**

The Belgian Volleyball League was created in October 2003 as the result of the wish expressed by the President of the Belgian Federation asking the top clubs to join forces and take control of their destiny because of the specificities of professional volleyball.

During the last 15 years, the clubs professionalized and developed their operation and product. This was not always easy because of the narrowness of our market and because of limited financial means from public authorities and private partners.

Nevertheless, our clubs are still doing well in the European Cups which are very important to attract the attention from the public and the media. Therefore, it is crucial for our competition to stay close to the standards of the CEV. The League is directly supporting his clubs, for example by negotiating the TV contract and accompanying the marketing; also with the acquisition of data volley, video check systems and live streaming to upgrade the level.

Furthermore, as representant of the employers, the League is very active in the social dialog at the level of the Ministry of employment, negotiating special fiscal and social measures for the players together with the other professional leagues of Basketball, Cycling and Football. With this we try to avoid dubious payment of players to guarantee financial fair play between the clubs in the highest division. This matter is in line with the means of the European Commission.

During this 15 years, we lived in correct relationship with the Federation, even if we are not always happy with the calendar issues and with their very slow reactions with no expertise in managing high level clubs, especially from the commercial and the legal point of view, taking more in consideration the reality of little clubs with less than 120.000€ budget than with clubs taking part in the European Cups.

As you probably know, we had already a problem of dialog with Mr Guy Juwet, President of the Belgian Federation, at the start of his mandate, and after one year it became unmanageable because we have nothing else than opposition and immobilism from him. He even proposed to his board to allow the little clubs no to respect the Law regarding players contracts and received therefor a blame from the social partners. Belgian Law obliges each club to hire at least 4 semi-professional players whose minimum monthly salary is 850 euro (taxes and social advantages included). And this is too much for Mr Juwet! We have Licence conditions to ensure that clubs have the level to participate in the competition in terms of infrastructure, budget and player contracts, ... but Mr Juwet decided to blow it up!

Mr Juwet seems to think that our clubs are the cash cow of the Federation. Indeed, everything is more expensive when it concerns the men's League and the Belgian Cup competition generates important benefits for Volley Belgium, without any prize money for the participating teams.

It's too much because Mr Juwet went too far because he also tried to interfere with our commercial partners, and that's why, as stakeholders of Belgian Volleyball, we demand his resignation because we want him to stop from interfering in matters in which he is incompetent and conservative. Of course, we don't accept his auto proclamation as representative of Belgium for the European Cups as he does not have the knowledge nor the trust of our clubs because he does not defend their interests.

We also asked for an external audit of the functioning and financial flows of the Belgian Federation, which, as you may know, under our Community system, has in principle only a ceremonial role and is therefore not eligible for public aid.

We know that CEV wants to find a good balance between the competition of the national teams and those reserved for the clubs, that's why we inform you of the situation in Belgium where the Federation puts all on the national teams without any support to the activities of the League which it disrupts all initiatives. The level of the Belgian women's club competition is proof of what the federation is capable of.

We thank you for your attention and we remain fully yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB' followed by a stylized flourish.

Philippe Boone  
President of the Belgian Volleyball League  
In name of the Board of Directors