

**TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA**

Circular no. 1420

Zurich, 12 May 2014

SG/mav/fan

**Research on third-party ownership of players' economic rights – executive summaries**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The issue of third-party ownership of players' economic rights (hereinafter: *TPO*) has been a priority topic in the discussions within the international football community led by FIFA. The relevant FIFA standing committees have included this matter in their respective agendas, with the aim of identifying the most effective manner to address this subject.

The respective discussions have so far highlighted the lack of a common approach within the football community as to the most appropriate manner of dealing with *TPO*, even though the majority of football stakeholders seem to acknowledge that such practices may constitute a threat to the integrity of football competitions.

Due to the complexity of the phenomenon and the varied approaches that are applied in different regions, FIFA, as previously communicated, mandated two studies with the overall objective of adding to the information available on this practice as well as on the different aspects connected with *TPO* (cf. FIFA circulars 1335 and 1373) in order to provide more data with which to support all further discussions and work on this matter. Both studies have also contributed to a preliminary collection of views of the football stakeholders in relation to *TPO* and its impact on the football sector in general.

FIFA's aim and priority is to address this topic on the basis of a sound understanding of all the aspects connected with *TPO* so that adequate and proportionate solutions may be suggested within an inclusive and informed process involving all the relevant stakeholders at the level of the competent FIFA bodies.

- In view of the 64<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress, we would like, with this letter, to provide you with the executive summaries of both studies, the first conducted by the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) and the second by the *Centre de Droit et d'Economie du Sport* (CDES).

A general update on TPO will also be provided at the 64<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress in São Paulo.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the FIFA administration.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

Encl: - executive summaries of the CIES and CDES studies

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee  
- Confederations

