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Pressure mounts on FIFA: Belgian players' union joins "Justice for Players" movement

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On Tuesday, United Athletes joined the Justice for Players class action lawsuit against FIFA and the Belgian Football Association, among others. The Belgian sports union is following in the footsteps of its French and Dutch counterparts, with the aim of obtaining compensation for footballers who have been harmed by illegal points in FIFA's transfer system.



By [Thomas Demazy](#)



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Gradually, the consequences of the Diarra ruling handed down by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in October 2024 are becoming apparent. Ultimately, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) may finally be forced to sit down at the negotiating table to rethink its transfer market... or to dig into its pockets.

The latest development in this case comes from Belgium and could well have a snowball effect. On Tuesday, the Belgian football players' union United Athletes, a branch of the CSC, announced its support for the collective action brought by the Dutch foundation 'Justice for Players' against FIFA and the Belgian, Dutch, German, French and Danish national federations.

When asked by the Mons Court of Appeal in a case between former French international **Lassana Diarra** and FIFA, the CJEU ruled that FIFA's rules on the unilateral termination of contracts by professional footballers were contrary to European law. This landmark ruling not only exposed FIFA and the Belgian Football Association to a colossal claim for compensation from Diarra, amounting to €65 million. It also paved the way for **a class action lawsuit against FIFA** by all footballers who had been harmed by these rules, which were deemed illegal. All players who had played in the European Union and the United Kingdom since 2002 are potentially affected!



See also: Diarra case: Lassana Diarra claims €65 million from FIFA and the Belgian Football Association

High financial stakes

It was precisely to fight this battle that Justice for Players, represented by the Dutch law firm Finch and advised by the Belgian law firm **Jean-Louis Dupont** and **Martin Hissel**, was formed in 2025. *"Our mission is to ensure that players are compensated for the losses they have suffered as a result of these illegal FIFA rules," the Dutch foundation states on its website.*

According to Justice for Players, the financial stakes are immense. ***"This complaint concerns 100,000 players and damages amounting to several billion euros. This affects not only top-level players, but also those in lower leagues. Economists have calculated that the professional players affected have earned an average of 8% less income over their careers as a result of FIFA rules. A global report on men's football published in 2016 by FIFPRO revealed that more than 45% of footballers earn less than US\$1,000 per month."***

A possible snowball effect

In the coming weeks, the Belgian union United Athletes will send an email to its members and former members explaining how to sign up for this class action lawsuit to apply for financial compensation for the damage suffered. In addition to this financial aspect, Justice for

Players aims to *"get FIFA to (finally!) adopt, through genuine dialogue, the governance reforms required by EU law, which include co-decision powers for players' unions on all matters relating to players' working and employment conditions, in collaboration with representative club associations."*

The fact that within five weeks, French (UNFP), Dutch (VVCS) and Belgian trade unions have lent their support to the class action is not insignificant. These unions could lead their counterparts in other European countries to follow suit. Could this lead to FIFPRO Europe, which brings together unions from 36 countries across the continent, becoming involved in the fight as an entity? In the long term, this is entirely possible...

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