

FIFA AGENTS

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FIFA's legal chief outlines agents plan

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FIFA's head of legal affairs, Marco Villiger, has revealed that plans are being drawn up that would see player agents face limits on the amount they earn from transfers.



Industry Reports

Speaking at a news briefing in Brussels, Villiger stated FIFA is seeking to end its system of licensing agents and introduce regulations governing transfers and agents' conduct. World football's governing body believes only 25-30 per cent of international transfers are carried out by licensed agents.

FIFA also outlined that some 10,500 international transfers have taken place since the 2010 World Cup at a combined value of some US\$2.7 billion. "What you pay for with agents, it's only access to the players," said Villiger, in quotes reported by Reuters. "It is in the pockets of people who do not invest in football."

FIFA's plans would see the end of licensed agents, although they would still have to register with national associations. Conflicts of interest would need to be declared and no fees could be commanded for the transfer of minors. Clubs would have to disclose payments, which could also be limited, with the belief that this may encourage clubs to limit future spending. "(A) fair (amount) could perhaps be two to three per cent (of the transfer fee) or a cap of \$2 million," Villiger added.

The European Commission is next month due to host a meeting including FIFA, UEFA and agents to discuss the matter further.

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