



**Gianni Infantino**

President of the Federation Internationale de Football Association  
FIFA Strasse 20  
P.O Box 8044  
Zurich, Switzerland

Brussels, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Subject: 2034 World Cup in Saudi Arabia and human rights strategy for the 2030 World Cup in Morocco, Portugal and Spain**

Dear Mr Gianni Infantino,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to raise our concerns regarding the selection process for the 2034 World Cup in Saudi Arabia and the human rights strategy for the 2030 World Cup to be hosted in Morocco, Portugal and Spain.

In a new report published on 11th November, "High Stakes Bids: Dangerously Flawed Human Rights Strategies for the 2030 and 2034 FIFA World Cups", Amnesty International and the Sports and Rights Alliance have evaluated the human rights strategies proposed by Morocco, Portugal and Spain for the 2030 tournament and Saudi Arabia for the 2034 event. The report concludes that neither bid adequately outlined how they would meet the human rights standards required by FIFA in its bidding regulations, nor consulted meaningfully with human rights organisations, and that the risks in Saudi Arabia are so high that hosting the tournament there would likely lead to severe and widespread rights violations.

Although Saudi Arabia has announced some reforms, the repression of independent civil society and critical voices impedes any attempt of more comprehensive reforms. Scores of human and women rights activists and dissidents are in prison or on trial for their peaceful criticism. The planned development as part of the World Cup bid will create particular risks for the more than 2 million workers in the construction industry, 85% of whom are foreign nationals, which by turn, are exposed to risks to their health, including from heat and humidity. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia authorities offer no legal protection for LGBTI people; bans any public practice of a religion other than Islam; and no independent media exists.



Therefore, we join the call from Amnesty International and the Sports and Rights Alliance requesting you, as FIFA President, more credible strategies and binding commitments to prevent human rights violations in relation to the 2030 World Cup in Morocco, Portugal and Spain, and also, to halt the selection process for the 2034 World Cup in Saudi Arabia until proper human rights protections are in place to avoid worsening an already dire situation.

Respectfully,

MEP Diana Riba i Giner (Greens/EFA)

MEP Ana Miranda Paz (Greens/EFA)

MEP Cristina Guarda (Greens/EFA)

MEP Carolina Morace (The Left)

MEP David Cormand (Greens/EFA)

MEP Catarina Vieira (Greens/EFA)

MEP Fernando Barrena (The Left)

MEP Li Andersson (The Left)

MEP Reinier van Lanschot (Greens/EFA)

MEP Chloé Ridet (S&D)

MEP Estelle Ceulemans (S&D)

MEP Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA)

MEP Mélissa Camara (Greens/EFA)

MEP Emma Fourreau (The Left)