

THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL POOL



By Yvonne Schnyder, Secretary General of the European Football Pool

On April 11, at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, Roger Vandenstock, vice-president of the UEFA Intertoto Cup Commission, and I drew lots for the 1997 UEFA Intertoto Cup. Sixty registered teams from 33 countries were assigned to twelve groups and three geographic regions.

Group matches will take place June 21-22, June 28-29, July 5-6, July 12-13 and July 19. The semi-finals are scheduled for July 26-27 and 30, and the finals for August 12 and 26. EFP membership entitles the toto companies to the use of the publicity and results service. As in the past, results are communicated to interested parties shortly after the close of each game.

A change in leadership

His heavy involvement in international football led UEFA president Lennart Johansson of Sweden to resign his EFP presidency. Expressing their thanks to the departing president, the participants at the delegates' meeting, held April 14 in Vouliagmeni, Greece, accepted the decision with regret and wished him success with his work on behalf of football.

Dipl. Ing. Friedrich Stickler, member of Austrian Lottery's management committee and Intertoto Vice-President, was elected to the EFP presidency. Erich Holzmeier, managing director of Sport-Toto GmbH Rheinland Pfalz, and representative for many years of Germany's Toto-Lotto Bloc, was named EFP vice-president, and Matti Ahde, CEO of Oy Veikkaus Ab, Finland, was made a member of the EFP committee.



Dipl. Ing. Friedrich Stickler: the European Football Pool has a new President



The agreement that links UEFA and the EFP for the initial three years of the new UEFA Intertoto Cup expires at the end of the '97 Cup. The EFP committee was asked to initiate renewal discussions with UEFA. The toto companies assign great significance to this bridge of the summer break in national football. It provides financial support for sports in general and football in particular.