

FIFA Statement on European Guarding Security Services – 24 May 2021

The company European Guarding Security Services (EGSS) provided security services for the FIFA Club World Cup in February 2021 (FCWC) under a call-off agreement with FIFA's tournament delivery partner the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC). The company has previously also provided services on a FIFA World Cup construction site and, as part of that, was subject to the monitoring programme by the SC's Workers' Welfare Department (SC WWD), including pre-contract due diligence.

All companies providing services for FIFA tournaments in Qatar under SC and FIFA contracts are bound by the SC's Workers' Welfare Standards (WWS). In interviews with EGSS workers carried out by the SC WWD during this year's FCWC, several compliance issues with the WWS and the Qatar Labour Law were identified, and the company was reported to the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs (ADLSA) in February 2021.

After EGSS workers went on strike on 26 April 2021 for a matter related to their new employment contracts which, according to ADLSA, were not in line with revised Qatari legislation that went into effect on 20 March 2021, an unannounced ethical recruitment audit was conducted by the SC WWD. During that visit, several additional non-compliances with the WWS were identified. A rectification plan was issued following this audit with its implementation currently being monitored by the SC WWD.

In general, important efforts are required by the private security sector in Qatar to ensure full compliance with Qatari legislation and international labour rights standards, and we urge the Qatari authorities to be vigilant in their enforcement efforts. In addition, FIFA and its local tournament delivery partners are currently expanding and further strengthening their efforts to ensure the protection of the increased number of workers who will provide services at the FIFA Arab Cup 2021 and at the FIFA World Cup 2022, including with respect to the provision of safety and security.

FIFA also strongly encourages all private security companies in Qatar to support and participate in the sector-specific working group convened by the ILO Office in Doha in collaboration with UNI Global Union and the Institute for Human Rights and Business, and to implement guidance developed as part of that process.