



Press kit - 37th Symposium

A NEW PATH TO THE ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATIONS



The **Alliance of European Football Coaches Associations** (AEFCA) held last month its 37th annual symposium. Co-organized with the Italian Football Coaches Association (AIAC), it hosted the 49 national associations on the 3rd and 4th of November in Como, Italy.

As a reference of the great hours of the Italian cinema, the devoted theme « La grande bellezza » (The beauty of football) has been chosen to base lectures on the game and its specific features.

MULTICULTURALISM IN FOOTBALL – A MEANS TO SUCCESS

The Alliance is today representing 49 european countries, with at least as much training methods and coaching styles.

Taking profit of the differences and the wealth each football delegation represents, the symposium is always a great opportunity to talk about the Team Managers' work.

The opening ceremony, led by **Walter Gagg** (AEFCA President), **Mario Lucini** (Mayor of Como) and **Carlo Tavecchio** (FIGC President) introduced this 2016 edition and the three main topics lectures were structured on :

- football training evolutions
- Euro 2016 analysis
- highlights on the Italian coaching style



On the first day, **Renzo Ulivieri** (AIAC President) and then **Paolo Piani** (Coverciano Director) discussed on the Italian football specific features. Methods and particularities evoked during these talks have then been illustrated in the afternoon, during the training session of **Inter Milan** U17 squad. A training session orchestrated by Coach **Andrea Zanchetta** and mainly based on possession with an emphasis on verticality. Lecturers then focused on the UEFA European Championship that took place in France last June. **Marco Fumagalli** (Performance Director at FC Valencia) talked about the main football evolutions that have been highlighted during the competition and **Romeo Jozak** (CFF Technical Director) explained how the Croatian Federation competed in high-level context. He particularly insisted on the player's perspective and decision making.

Prof. Dr. Elmar Wienecke held a stunning lecture on nutrition, dealing with « Optimal Training for Football ».

IMPROVING THE ROLE OF THE COACH



The second day began with AEFCA **General Assembly**. Re-elected for four years as President of the organization, Walter Gagg and the Executive Committee naturally remain in the Alliance's project to respond effectively to the demands of the future.

Among the various aims it shall pursue, such as representing the interest of coaches and combining the knowledge of their activities, the Alliance of European Football Coaches Associations commits itself to offer services to its members.

As training is being more and more digitized and enriched with multicultural techniques, the organization decided to equip its coaches with the **My Coach Football** software, the digital assistant that has already seduced several countries.¹



¹ Associations' Presidents interested in providing coaches with My Coach Football for free can contact Thomas De Pariente (✉ tdp@mycoachfootball.com ☎ +33 6 38 52 88 91)

A CHART FOR A GLOBAL ALLIANCE

The symposium in Como was also the first time African and American delegations participated. With the 49 European members, they signed the **Carta Como**, a chart defining the basic principles of a soon-to-be global alliance.

International top speakers honoured this new dimension by providing high-quality lectures. Former coach **Carlos Alberto Parreira** focused on the evolution of football in Brazil, that he managed to victory at the 1994 World Cup.

Ian Barker, NSCAA Director of Coaching (USA) pointed out the e-learning system as the new and most spread way to access individualized instructions.



Gianni De Biasi and **Fabio Capello** both explained how fundamental values helped them in their professional experience abroad. According to them, communication, trust and team spirit are the key, especially within a pluricultural group.

To finish lectures with a French Touch, **Landry Chauvin** (Stade Rennais Academy Director) gave an interesting speech on the functioning of the Academy he manages. He explained for example that trainers in Rennes simultaneously take care of all categories, using the same method, and the same tactic. A successful training policy as the club is ranked 8 in the 2016 European best Academies.

MEETING NEXT YEAR IN BELGRADE



The symposium ended with a charity match for an association fighting against childhood leukemia. A gesture to remind that the beauty of football is also in the values it represents, and that the Alliance of European Coaches wants to be bearer.

Participants then got together for the closing Gala Dinner, organized with a special tribute for two main figures of Italian football: **Giacinto Facchetti** and **Cesare Maldini**. It has also been the opportunity for Giuliano Ragonesi (AIAC General Secretary) to be rewarded with the **Lothar-Meurer-Award** (LOM-Award), for his longyear support of European football.

AEFCA is happy to keep meeting every year to honour the involvement of members and the work furnished by coaches. By inviting new delegations and proposing adapted solutions for the future, the Alliance strengthens the links within the organization but also with other administrative bodies of football, such as **UEFA** and **FIFA**.

Next symposium will take place in Belgrade, Serbia. With the same objective of sharing experience, opinions, visions and ideas.