

**Decision No. 429/23 issued on 2 April 2007**

**Case No. 36019/05-10-2006**

The National Telecommunications and Post Committee, the Greek national authority responsible for supervising the administration of domain names in Greece, has issued a decision granting the cancellation petition filed against the domain name fifa.gr, which was initially registered in the name of an individual by the name Christos Soulimiotis. This registration was held to be in bad faith as it was found to be an unfair exploitation of FIFA's trademarks, distinguishing title, distinguishing feature of origin, etc.

The individual that registered the domain name fifa.gr was actively using the domain as a website for an online sports' newspaper, the main focus of which was football, both local and international.

When FIFA ("Fédération Internationale de Football Association") discovered the registration of the fifa.gr domain and its use by the third party, it immediately filed for its cancellation, especially since the use of the domain name by its registrant was so closely linked to the activities of FIFA that it clearly presented a risk of confusion to consumers, a lot of whom tend to follow football and other sports' news online.

The Committee's ruling was quite clear in its determination that the registration of the domain name fifa.gr by the Greek individual was done in bad faith. The Committee was satisfied of the existence of bad faith solely based on the facts before it, as per its autonomous jurisdiction, which allows it to decide such matters without having to resort to a court order for confirmation. The element of bad faith was substantiated by the fact that the Greek registrant had no relation or

affiliation to FIFA and had absolutely no relevant prior rights (whether registered or unregistered) in the particular name. In fact, the corresponding website [www.fifa.gr](http://www.fifa.gr) covered the same field of activities as those of FIFA and resembled so closely FIFA's official websites, that it was deemed to be clearly taking an unfair advantage of the name FIFA for commercial purposes.

In concluding its decision, the Committee held that the Greek individual was obviously aware of FIFA, which is the ultimate and absolute organizer of International Football Games. This knowledge, in conjunction with the registrant's competitive conduct towards FIFA, was deemed by the Committee to be a clear effort to extract clientele or divert online visitors from FIFA, that per se substantiated bad faith and sufficient grounds for granting the cancellation petition.

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