

Platini claims Swiss prosecutors have cleared him of criminal charges

Sports

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Michele Platini, the former UEFA head who became quite familiar to Ukrainians during his many visits to Kyiv in preparation for Euro 2012, claims that all the charges that got him banned from football for life have been dropped by Swiss prosecutors. There is as yet no official confirmation of his claim.

By [Michael Pavitt](#) for Inside the Games website, Wednesday, 30 May 2018 Former UEFA President Michel Platini [pictured] has claimed he will not face any criminal charges related to the alleged "disloyal payment" which led to him being banned from football. Platini was initially given an eight-year suspension for the payment of CHF2 million (£1.5 million/\$2 million/€1.8 million) made to him by former FIFA President Sepp Blatter. The sanction was later reduced to four years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. FIFA's Ethics Committee had sanctioned both Platini and Blatter over the payment, which was made when the latter sought re-election as President in 2011. Ethics judges ruled that Blatter broke rules on conflict of interest, breach of loyalty and offering gifts, while Platini breached regulations on conflict of interest and loyalty. The payment was part of a criminal investigation by Swiss prosecutors who were looking into various corruption allegations within world football's governing body. Both men have denied any wrongdoing and said the money was for work Platini carried out for FIFA between 1998 and 2002, when he served as a technical adviser to Blatter. However, the Frenchman did not receive his money until 2011 and question marks were raised over the time delay. Platini has now claimed to have been told by Swiss prosecutors that he will not be charged with any offence. It has led to the Frenchman suggesting his ban from football be "reviewed", while he has also pledged to return to the game in the future. [⋮]

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