



Federal Ministry
of the Interior



Government guarantees for the 2006 FIFA World Cup - Summary -

In accordance with the **FIFA rule book**, the host country is required to declare during the bidding process that it will fulfil a catalogue of state guarantees. In his letter of 6 July 1999, the former **Federal Chancellor** gave **FIFA** these guarantees.

The DFB's bidding document of July 1999 includes the following areas of state support:

1. Entry permits (visas)
2. Work permits
3. Customs and tax regulations
4. Security
5. Banking and currency exchange
6. Telecommunications
7. International Broadcast Centre
8. Media centre
9. Transport
10. Pricing policy
11. State taxes and duties
12. Ticket fees
13. Anthems and flags
14. Emergency medical services

Concerning these areas, the bidding document says:

"With the full support of all state bodies involved – both at federal and, if necessary, at Länder level, the DFB will give all guarantees to create the conditions for organizing and hosting the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Guarantees which will not be fulfilled by the Federal Government and/or the Länder because of legal provision in the Federal Republic of Germany will be submitted by the DFB in cooperation with the competent bodies."

The guarantees in detail:

1. Entry permits (visas)

In case participants and visitors were required to have an entry visa, it was guaranteed that the German missions abroad would issue visas in a swift and service-oriented fashion in line with general rules of international law and the agreements with EU partners.

Pursuant to the FIFA rule book, representatives of official delegations (e.g. the FIFA delegation, delegations of qualified national federations, licensing and TV partners, official FIFA partners, official suppliers) and media representatives receive visas free of charge. For persons required to have a visa, German foreigners law does not differentiate between the nationality, race or religion of the applicant (written guarantee of 15 June 1999 by the Federal Foreign Minister to the DFB).

2. Work permits

Free access to the labour market for FIFA officials (including referees and their assistants), players and paid staff of participating teams, representatives of official FIFA partners, official LOK suppliers and official licensing partners, media representatives including technical staff, staff members of FIFA's TV and marketing partners.

Unless covered by current law, such as for professional football players, unrestricted labour-market access of the above-mentioned groups of persons was ensured by a legal ordinance. It was guaranteed that labour law provisions would not present any obstacles to these groups of persons when doing their job (written guarantee of 8 June 1999 by the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs to the DFB).

3. Customs and tax regulations

In its letter of 13 July 1999, the Federal Ministry of Finance guaranteed that the goods mentioned in the FIFA rule book were free of customs and import duties upon entry in the customs territory of the European Community.

The official delegations, such as the FIFA delegation and its staff, the participating national federations and FIFA partners, as well as media representatives were promised priority in customs clearance procedures.

Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of Finance and the supreme financial authorities of the Länder declared that FIFA, the FIFA delegation, FIFA officials and guests, referees and their assistants, as well as FIFA conference participants would be exempt from income/corporation taxes on income generated in the context of the 2006 World Cup in Germany, and would be subject to limited taxation.

4. Security

In his letter of 30 June 1999 to the DFB, the Federal Minister of the Interior promised his support for the international football federation FIFA, the DFB and all bodies concerned to ensure maximum security during the matches, for the FIFA delegations and participating teams, for media representatives and spectators.

5. Banking and currency exchange

In the Federal Republic of Germany there are no limitations in transnational banking and currency exchange transactions. Against this background, the Federal Ministry of Finance guaranteed the free import and export of currencies, currency exchanges in accordance with internationally recognized conditions on the currency markets and payments to countries abroad (letter of 13 July 1999 to the DFB).

6. Telecommunications

Since in the Federal Republic of Germany telecommunications is privatized and no longer a state responsibility, neither the Federal Government nor any other state body were able to give a government guarantee in this area.

Instead, Deutsche Telekom AG, one of the major communication companies in the world, guaranteed optimum conditions. A high-performance telecommunication network for all forms of telecommunication including national and international data transmission through computer-aided facilities was available (letter of 10 May 1999 by Deutsche Telekom to the DFB).

7. International Broadcast Centre

Providing space for setting up the International Broadcast Centre was the responsibility of the local Organizing Committee.

The DFB guaranteed that in order to have sufficient time available, an International Broadcast Centre (IBC) with top equipment would be set up at least eight months prior to the start of the World Cup, fulfilling all technical requirements specified in the FIFA rule book.

The Federal Government and the competent Land government promised their maximum support to the DFB in setting up the IBC within the framework of their general support for the DFB's official bid and the related FIFA requirements.

Setting up the main media centre and subsidiary press centres in the venue stadiums was also a responsibility of the local Organizing Committee (written guarantee of July 1999 by the DFB to FIFA).

8. Media centre

The DFB guaranteed that a media centre with top equipment would be set up. In general, the DFB ensured optimum working conditions for representatives of all media.

Against the background of this FIFA requirement, the Federal Government and the competent Land government promised their full support for the DFB in this matter (written guarantee of July 1999 of the DFB to FIFA).

9. Transport

The Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Housing declared that Germany has an outstanding transport infrastructure (road, rail, air) required for the rapid and smooth transport of persons and goods during the preparations and hosting of the FIFA World Cup.

He promised that Deutsche Bahn AG and airlines (Lufthansa) would prepare themselves for the World Cup by providing appropriate services. Within the framework of regular road-building projects, a network of motorways with up to six lanes would be available in 2006. High-speed train (ICE) connections are constantly being expanded.

10. Pricing policy

The DFB would ensure that hotel prices for the FIFA delegation including FIFA officials and guest, the teams with their players and officials, the referees and their assistants, FIFA conference participants and other persons officially accredited by FIFA would be determined in accordance with the specifications of paragraph 4 of the agreement concluded between FIFA and the hosting federation in its version of 9 June 1999 amended by FIFA. This would also apply to hotels for representatives of commercial partners and accredited media. The above-mentioned guarantees were laid down in agreements with hotels (letter of July 1999 by the DFB to FIFA).

11. State taxes and duties

It was guaranteed (in a letter of 13 July 1999 by the Federal Ministry of Finance) that FIFA, its representatives and staff members, referees, guests and the participating national federations and their teams – with the exception of players and coaches – were not subject to direct or indirect taxes in Germany – with the exception of VAT – or duties related to or resulting from the 2006 World Cup.

12. Ticket fees

The DFB guaranteed that the local organizing committee or other organizations would charge no more than 10 per cent ticket fees on top of the regular ticket price when selling tickets (letter of July 1999 by the DFB to FIFA).

13. Anthems and flags

The Federal Ministry of the Interior guaranteed that in each match the national anthems of the relevant participating teams would be played before the kick-off and their national flags would be hoisted (letter of 8 June 1999 by the Federal Ministry of the Interior to the DFB).

14. Medical services

It is not a state institution's responsibility to ensure medical services. It is the sophisticated state-based health service in the Federal Republic of Germany that guarantees optimum medical services.

Against this background the DFB made sure that comprehensive medical services were provided at all venues on a 24/7 basis for all persons participating in the tournament or accredited for it, as required by the FIFA rule book. Thus, emergency medical services and possible treatment of all persons in the stadium were ensured on match days (letter of July 1999 by the DFB to FIFA).