

Minister of Sports of the Federal Republic of Brazil
Aldo Rebelo

Zurich, 5 March 2012
SG/chs

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you today to address the events of the last few days.

I deeply regret that a misinterpretation in the translation of my words have caused much concern. In French, "se donner un coup de pied aux fesses" just means "to pick up the pace" or, in Portuguese, "retomar o ritmo" and, unfortunately, this expression was translated into Portuguese using much stronger words.


I would therefore like to apologise to you and also to anyone who was shocked by my words.

There is certainly an air of concern at FIFA, and as the person who is ultimately responsible for this World Cup, I am under quite some pressure. The World Cup is the key to our entire system. I am confident that there is no insurmountable problem that cannot be solved through the efforts of FIFA, the LOC and the Brazilian authorities in their various levels.

I would like to reiterate, as I have done in many occasions, that Brazil is and always will be the only option as host of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™. Please be assured that making the World Cup in Brazil, a country for which I hold great respect and admiration, a success is not only my duty but my greatest wish.

Again, I regret the negative repercussion in the media.

Yours sincerely,
FIFA



Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General