

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **King Baudouin Stadium no realistic alternative for UEFA EURO 2020**

The Stadium Consultancy has executed a study to determine if and to which extent the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels is compliant with the requirements for the UEFA EURO 2020 tournament. The study is part of a broader research study for spectator comfort & services, hospitality concepts, fan experience and fan engagement in football stadiums, commissioned by the Ghelamco Group.

As part of the study a full compliance check of the King Baudouin Stadium against the UEFA EURO 2020 Tournament Requirements as well as the contractual commitments made by the Royal Belgian Football Association (KBVB), the city of Brussels and the Brussels Capital Region, has been executed. Based on the outcome of this compliance check, various options and solutions to make the King Baudouin Stadium compliant with the requirements for the EURO 2020, have been explored.

At present, none of the available seats for the general spectators, corporate hospitality guests and VIP in the King Baudouin Stadium complies with the UEFA EURO 2020 Tournament Requirements. Not only do none of the seats offer the required comfort and leg space but out of the 50,093 seats approximately only 16,500 can be used for commercial purposes during the Tournament. Main reason is that the majority of the seats in the first tier of the stadium does not have a clear and unobstructed view of the entire field of play.

Moreover, the stadium lacks a proper seating area and lounge for VIP, which meets UEFA standards. The stadium offers none of the required 80 skyboxes with in total 800 seats. The welfare facilities for the general public are non-compliant both in number and in quality. The study also reveals that also the access control and safety concept of the stadium and the facilities for the media and broadcast have significant shortcomings and do not comply with the requirements of the prestigious UEFA EURO 2020 tournament.

The Stadium Consultancy has explored various options and solutions to address the shortcomings of the King Baudouin Stadium and to make it compliant with the UEFA requirements for the tournament. However, the necessary modifications are so far reaching that this would in fact mean a full new construction on the same site and that the athletic track should be eliminated.

A previous design study for the renovation of the King Baudouin Stadium, executed in 2015, is also not considered to be a realistic option for the EURO 2020 Tournament. In this study the majority of the seats still as an obstructed view on the pitch or exceeds the maximum viewing distance of 190m to the furthest corner flag. The estimated budget of 110 million euro for the proposed renovation works is considered too low.

A new 60,000 seat capacity stadium on the location of the King Baudouin Stadium is therefore the only remaining option. This would cost approximately € 300-400 million, based on benchmark costs of similar projects. The financing of this amount is yet to be secured.

Finally, to obtain all required planning and building permits for a new stadium would take 1,5 to 2 years, leaving less than 1 year to build, commission and test the new stadium in time before start of the Tournament, which is too short and does not allow for any contingencies.

Based on the short time period remaining for realizing a new UEFA 2020 compliant stadium on the site of the King Baudouin Stadium, this is considered not to be a viable option.