The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

FIFA President Says Russia World Cup Not Under Discussion

September 03, 2014

Russia's Alexander Kerzhakov (11) celebrates after scoring a goal during a football match between Russia and South Korea at the Pantanal arena in Cuiaba, Brazil.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has reiterated that Russia's hosting of the 2018 World Cup is not up for discussion.

"We are not placing any questions over the World Cup in Russia," he told an event near Kitzbuehel, Austria, according to DPA news agency.

"We are in a situation in which we have expressed our trust to the organizers of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups," he added. "(A boycott) has never achieved anything."

There have been calls from politicians for the tournament to be taken elsewhere because of Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis and its annexation of Crimea.

Asked last week whether there was any risk that Russia could lose its right to hold the tournament due to the complicated political situation, President Vladimir Putin said: "I

hope not. FIFA has already said soccer and sport are outside politics and I think that is the right approach."

Russia will host the 2018 World Cup at 12 stadiums in 11 cities, including two venues in Moscow.

The 2022 World Cup will be played in Qatar which has also been criticized because of its alleged maltreatment of migrant workers in the construction industry.

FIFA's ethics committee is investigating the bidding process which led to the awarding of both tournaments in December 2010.

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