

## Euro 2008 an 'outstanding experience', says Platini

European soccer body UEFA president Michel Platini said Euro 2008 was an outstanding experience and transmitted European football's positive image across the globe.

In a press conference held here Saturday, Platini thanked players, coaches and fans for their efforts during the tournament.

Platini also praised co-hosts Austria and Switzerland and looked forward to a memorable final encounter between Germany and Spain.

'When you arrive at the end of a tournament you say thanks to people and I would like to thank the players and the coaches because they have given a very good image of European football,' Platini said.

'The players have been positive, the coaches have been positive. Since the start of the competition, the players have given happiness through the quality of their football.'

'I am a happy President,' Platini said. 'The organisation has been excellent, the two host countries' work has been remarkable. The atmosphere has been nice, the supporters have been super.'

UEFA general secretary David Taylor said Euro 2008 is also a financial success. 'The revenues at this tournament have gone up by about 56 percent from 2004. The final net result for UEFA is about five percent better than 2004, so this tournament continues to attract huge interest from broadcasters and sponsors.'

'The financial benefits from the tournament are then used by UEFA to distribute to the 53 national associations over the next four years, to allow them to develop grassroots football and other forms of football in their countries.' Taylor said.

( © IANS / India eNews)