

Name: Ivan

Surname: Gazidis

Role: CEO

Place of birth: Johannesburg, South Africa

Nationality: UK

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, on September 13, 1964, Ivan Efthimios Gazidis moved with his family to the UK in 1969, and in 1986 earned a Law degree from Oxford University.

In 1992, he moved to the US where he started working at global law firm Latham & Watkins, before joining the founding management team of Major League Soccer in 1994. He was appointed Deputy Commissioner of MLS in 2001, overseeing both the administration of the league and all matters relating to the strategic management and negotiation of the player contracts for all players in the league under MLS's single entity structure. He also oversaw, among a range of other areas, MLS's player development and referee programs, its competitive rules and regulations, player and coach disciplinary issues and its schedule.

In 2008, he returned to the UK and held the post of CEO at Arsenal FC until 2018. Gazidis oversaw the modernization of the technical, administrative and commercial departments of the club, including player recruitment, football analytics and the development of new training facilities for the First Team and Academy. During his tenure at Arsenal, the club won three English FA Cups and secured qualification for the UEFA Champions League in 9 out of 10 seasons.

Gazidis played an important role within the English game, serving at various times in many representative roles within its governing bodies, including in Premier League Shareholder meetings, as a member of the FA Council, the Chairman of the Professional Game Board, a key member of the working group that developed and instituted England's new elite player development programs ("EPPP"), and Chairman of the FA's international committee. At the same time, he has occupied many senior roles in the global game which leverage his technical and football business experience, including on the Executive Board of the European Clubs Association ("ECA"), UEFA's Executive Committee, FIFA's Dispute Resolution Chamber, and chairing a number of different football committees at the ECA.

On December 1, 2018, Gazidis was appointed CEO of AC Milan. He continues to serve as a member of FIFA's Football Stakeholders Committee and the UEFA Club Competitions Committee, and chairs the ECA Competition Working Group.