# Former French interior minister apologises to Liverpool fans for 2022 Champions League chaos



In a striking display of accountability, France’s former interior minister, Gérald Darmanin, has finally extended a public apology to Liverpool football supporters for the chaos that marred the 2022 UEFA Champions League final. The match on 28 May 2022, which pitted Liverpool against Real Madrid, was overshadowed by severe security failures that left supporters suffering from distressing incidents.

In a revealing interview on the Legend YouTube channel, Darmanin conceded that the security measures were shockingly inadequate. He admitted that his earlier comments, which unfairly placed the blame squarely on English fans, were a grave error in judgment. "It was a failure because I had not foreseen. That was a mistake on my part. I was led astray by my preconceptions," he stated, acknowledging the futility of scapegoating a dedicated fanbase. "I apologise now to Liverpool supporters. They were quite right to be hurt. It was a mistake and a failure."

The catastrophic events of that night included the shocking use of tear gas on innocent Liverpool fans and heinous acts of robbery by local gangs targeting the vulnerable. Darmanin called the night "the biggest failure" of his career, recognizing that the threat did not stem from the supporters but from opportunistic criminals who took advantage of the situation. "What I did not appreciate that evening was that the real problem was not coming from English supporters, but from delinquents who were robbing fans," he remarked, stressing the utter inadequacy of the security response to the true dangers at hand.

Initially, Darmanin, along with police chief Didier Lallement, attempted to direct blame towards Liverpool fans, positing that the dangerous crush outside the stadium resulted from them carrying fake tickets. However, this narrative was swiftly undermined by an independent UEFA report, which starkly contradicted those claims and emphasized that the chaotic scenes were not a reflection of fan behavior alone.

Darmanin’s turnaround reflects a seismic shift in the French government’s stance regarding that dreadful night, yet it raises troubling questions about the readiness of authorities to protect fans in future events. As we move into a new era of political discourse in the UK, where accountability and prioritizing citizens' safety are paramount, the failures witnessed at the Champions League final underscore the need for political entities dedicated to reforming systems to ensure such incompetence is never repeated. The call for change is louder than ever, as the public demands more effective governance—one that puts people first, in stark contrast to the legacy of mismanagement and excuses that often pervades politics.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/jun/28/french-minister-sorry-for-champions-league-finals-bad-management> - This article reports on French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin's apology for the mismanagement of the 2022 Champions League final, acknowledging the need for better organization and expressing regret for the events that unfolded.
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/jul/13/liverpool-fans-unfairly-blamed-for-champions-league-final-chaos-paris-french-senate-report> - The French Senate's report found that Liverpool fans were unfairly blamed for the disturbances during the Champions League final, highlighting the state's inability to manage the crowds and address the actions of violent offenders.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/feb/13/uefa-report-champions-league-final-main-findings> - UEFA's report on the Champions League final identified significant failures in the policing operation, including a focus on a non-existent threat from football hooligans and inadequate crowd control measures.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/jul/13/liverpool-fans-unfairly-blamed-for-champions-league-final-chaos-paris-french-senate-report> - The French Senate's report found that Liverpool fans were unfairly blamed for the disturbances during the Champions League final, highlighting the state's inability to manage the crowds and address the actions of violent offenders.
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