



Arsenal Summer Transfers 2026: Tzolis Confirmed, Saliba's Injury and the Race for Alvarez

Description

Arsenal's summer of 2026 has quickly become one of the most dramatic in recent memory. **Christos Tzolis** is through the door, **Piero Hincapié**'s loan is now permanent, and **Illan Meslier** arrives on a free yet the mood at the Emirates is defined as much by what is happening off the pitch as on it. **Arsenal summer transfers 2026** are dominated by two stories: William Saliba's back injury and the unfinished business of landing Julián Alvarez.

Arsenal Summer Transfers 2026: Tzolis Brings Goals and Energy to the Emirates

The signing Arsenal supporters had been waiting for was confirmed on 23 July 2026. Christos Tzolis, 24, joins from Club Brugge in a deal worth approximately £34 million and will wear the number 17 shirt at the Emirates. Sporting Director Andrea Berta was effusive in his praise, describing the Greek international as "an extremely versatile attacking player who naturally operates on the left but is comfortable across the front line."

The numbers back up the hype. Tzolis registered 17 goals and 23 assists in his final season at Brugge, helping the Belgian club lift the league title while picking up the Pro League Player of the Season award for a remarkable second consecutive year. In 108 appearances for the Bruges side, the former PAOK and Norwich City man scored 43 times and contributed 45 assists – a return that tells you everything about his quality in both box and wide positions. He has already linked up with his new teammates at the Sobha Realty Training Centre ahead of the 2026/27 campaign.



Source: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com)

Hincapie Made Permanent, Meslier Arrives Free

Tzolis was not Arsenal's first business of the summer. Piero Hincapié's loan from Bayer Leverkusen was made permanent in June for a fee in the region of £34.5 million, cementing the Ecuadorian defender's place at the heart of Arsenal's back line. Having played a pivotal role in Arsenal's long-awaited Premier League title triumph in 2025/26, the 23-year-old centre-back was always going to be retained.

Goalkeeper Illan Meslier has also arrived from Leeds United on a free transfer, providing further competition between the posts. At 26, the French shot-stopper is in the prime years of his career and brings Premier League experience that will bolster Arteta's squad as they head into European competition. With three new faces through the door, the [Sports](#) news from Arsenal is gathering pace.

The Saliba Injury Blow

The most alarming development of Arsenal's summer arrived mid-July with the William Saliba injury update. The French centre-back was in brilliant form throughout 2025/26 and then heroically battled through a back problem at the 2026 World Cup, helping France reach the semi-finals before pulling up against Spain with the injury worsening.

Reports from L'Equipe suggest Saliba may avoid surgery but faces a sustained rehabilitation programme, with Arsenal's medical team working closely with the player and external specialists to determine the best plan. The injury has forced the club's hand in the market, with Ezri Konsa, Jacobo Ramon, and John Stones among the centre-back targets to cover for his absence. For context on earlier activity in this window, see our earlier look at [Arsenal's transfer window moves in June](#).



Source: Arsenal FC official website (arsenal.com)

The JuliÃn Ãlvarez Pursuit Intensifies

No transfer saga has consumed more column inches this summer than Arsenal's pursuit of JuliÃn Ãlvarez from Atletico Madrid. The Argentine World Cup star publicly stated his desire to leave the Metropolitano after Argentina's group-stage victory over Austria, and he has since become the most coveted striker in European football.

Atletico's position was initially uncompromising â their â500 million release clause is not a negotiating tactic, it is a hard floor. Yet there are signs of real movement. Multiple outlets report that Arteta's side have made âgroundbreaking progressâ in negotiations, and reports this week suggested Ãlvarez is prepared to accept Arsenal's offer in the region of Â£120 million â with Atletico's agreement the final hurdle to clear.

Barcelona have long been Ælvarez's preferred destination, but with the Catalan club financially constrained, Arsenal may yet win the race for one of the world's best centre-forwards. If secured, he would join Viktor Gyokeres and Kai Havertz in an attacking department that would make Arsenal serious Champions League contenders. For more on European clubs rebuilding this summer, see how [Real Madrid are reshaping their squad under Mourinho](#).

With the new 2026/27 Premier League season on the horizon, Arsenal's summer business is shaping up to be one of their most significant in years. The Tzolis deal is done. The Hincapie question is answered. But until the Saliba and Ælvarez stories reach their conclusions, there will be no quiet at the Emirates.

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