

**Question for written answer E-001859/2024**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Detrimental impact of Bosman ruling and Cotonou Agreement on European football

The Bosman ruling of 15 December 1995 and Cotonou Agreement of 23 June 2000 profoundly changed the face of European football.

By prohibiting UEFA from imposing quotas on foreign players in the EU, the Bosman ruling directly encouraged the hyper-financialisation not only of football but also of other sports. Without nationality criteria, the attractiveness of a club is no longer based on training or sports level, but solely on its financial standing. Latest victim in France: the Girondins de Bordeaux, who filed for bankruptcy on 25 July 2024.

Meanwhile, the Cotonou Agreement exacerbated the situation by allowing players from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific to escape the quota system applied for European players.

Since the Bosman ruling, there have been 29 editions of the Champions League. More than half were won by just three clubs. Football has thus become an increasingly restricted monopoly market.

Will the Commission take action to allow nationality criteria to return in football with a view to curtailing the financialisation of the sport and fostering fairer competition between European nations and clubs?

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