

Question for written answer E-000063/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Organised crime's involvement in sporting events and its infiltration of supporter groups

The increasing involvement of criminal organisations in sporting events raises major concerns about the integrity of sport in Europe. Recent events in Italy¹ – a country where *ultra* supporter groups provide fertile ground for criminal elements and mafia organisations – indicate that these infiltrations are a cross-cutting issue and threaten the socio-cultural values inherent in sport².

Recent investigations show that sports have been widely infiltrated by criminal groups by means of match-fixing, illegal betting and the adjudication of contracts relating to sporting events and facility management, an example being the operation of the parking areas set aside for prestigious competitions (including the 2026 Winter Olympics³) and major European football fixtures. This state of affairs has highlighted that the alarming convergence of sport and crime could threaten the safety and integrity of sporting events.

The Council of Europe's Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions⁴ is a cornerstone in the fight against corruption in sports, as is Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)12 promoting 'good governance in sport' and urging Member States to apply 'a zero-tolerance policy regarding corruption.'

Given that concrete EU action is needed in this area:

1. Will the Commission back legal and legislative action⁶ specifically designed to combat organised crime in sports?
2. What specific initiatives could the Commission take to ensure greater cooperation between law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities and sports governing bodies and clubs at the European level?

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¹ <https://www.rainews.it/articoli/2024/11/polizia-scopre-un-arsenale-della-curva-nord-interista-sequestrati-pistole-kalashnikov-e-bombe--935bd136-711d-4bdf-be54-ac52bb1254ce.html>.

² European Sport Charter (Rhodes, 13-15 May 1992 – Council of Europe – Seventh Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport).

³ Wiretaps cited in a report written by magistrates Paolo Storari and Sara Ombra of the Milan Public Prosecutor's Office.

⁴ Article 1 of the Convention.

⁵ Articles 15, 16 and 17 of the Convention. In addition, Article 32 states that the Convention 'shall be open for signature by the Member States of the Council of Europe, the other States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, the European Union'.

⁶ Criminal laws that are effective in combating manipulative practices involving crimes such as coercion, corruption, fraud, aiding and abetting and the laundering of proceeds deriving from manipulation.