

**Question for written answer E-009899/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Sustainability of football in the European Union

In the last World Cup, three of the four semi-finalists were EU Member States. The European leagues have managed to attract the best players from across the world and have the greatest following in terms of global audiences. Football is an asset and an important part of life in the European Union which deserves the utmost attention.

In recent years, prices in the football transfers market, and the pay some elite players receive from their clubs, have risen exponentially. This bubble, which has continued to grow in spite of the crisis, is in stark contrast to the financial difficulties facing some clubs, which have led to changes in ownership or failure to fulfil their social and fiscal obligations.

According to some experts, conflicts of interest, the lack of economic governance and transparency, the high cost of non-sports mediation, the huge differences in the distribution of revenues obtained from broadcasting matches and the lack of restrictions in contract termination clauses and wage levels could affect the free movement of workers and fair competition, and ultimately undermine the credibility of and social support for the world of football, putting its future in jeopardy.

Does the Commission share this concern? Does it consider it necessary to take a structured approach to this situation in order to safeguard the exercise of fundamental freedoms and the sustainability of European football?