

**Question for written answer E-001147/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Theodoros Zagorakis (S&D)

Subject: Gratuitous violence against football fans

The trouble which broke out at yesterday's Europa Conference League match between Club Brugge and PAOK has caused deep concern and frustration. The Belgian police used gratuitous violence against PAOK fans, firing tear gas and water cannons at them, refusing many fans entry to the stadium for no reason and arresting some of them even though they had valid tickets issued by UEFA.

It is not the first time this has happened and such behaviour undermines not only the sport itself but also the values that sport in general instils as well as the ideals of the EU, which inspire solidarity, unity and harmony among its people. Fans of all European teams are entitled to equal treatment across Europe and not be treated as second-rate fans.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission view the unacceptable events that took place during the Club Brugge-PAOK game?
2. What can it do to ensure a coherent framework for sports fan travel that respects the rights of fans and weeds out all forms of discrimination in Europe?

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