

**Question for written answer E-010209/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sanctions imposed by international sports federations in respect of non-authorised sporting events

The International Skating Union (ISU) threatens to ban its athletes for life if they participate in speed skating events that are not authorised by the federation. In various other sports, international federations similarly restrict the economic opportunities of European athletes.

1. Aside from the specificities of the ISU ban, how does the Commission view the fact that international sports federations sanction their athletes for taking part in non-authorised events?
2. Is the Commission of the opinion that the sanction of a lifelong ban for participating in non-authorised events can be considered to be inherent and proportionate to the pursuit of a legitimate objective, and is the fact that non-authorised events are often closely connected to, and co-sponsored by, betting companies an important element in its assessment?
3. How does the Commission view the fact that redistribution and solidarity mechanisms are less strongly developed by private/commercial competition organisers than by some (inter)national sports federations?