Question for written answer E-005597/2015 to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: Serious events surrounding the Roma-Feyenoord match

On 19 February, fans of the Dutch football team Feyenoord gathered in the famous Piazza di Spagna in Rome, in anticipation of the match against AS Roma being held that very evening.

Over the course of the afternoon, the Dutch fans assembled in the Piazza scattered litter throughout and launched empty bottles – even kicking them – into the Barcaccia fountain situated at the foot of the stairs leading to the church of Trinità dei Monti. The fountain had recently been restored at a cost of more than EUR 200 000.

There were numerous disturbances and reports of violence at the Villa Borghese gardens and the Campo de' Fiori square, where the Italian police were forced into clashes with the Dutch hooligans in an attempt to restore order.

In addition, a total of 15 out of the 26 buses laid on by the Italian public transit company ATAC S.p.A. to transport fans to the stadium were seriously damaged and to date remain unusable for the purposes of public transport.

In light of the above, can the Commission please answer the following questions:

What evaluations have been carried out concerning the efficacy of the '2014-2016 EU work programme on minimising risks to safety, security and public order in connection with sports events, in particular football matches'? Has the Commission also evaluated how effectively the funds allocated thereto have been used?

Does it plan to propose strengthening the European Union action plans and programmes concerning violence at international sporting events in which at least one Member State is involved?

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