

**Question for written answer E-009859/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Discrimination in women's football

According to information that has come to the attention of the European media, the women footballers taking part in the current Women's Football World Cup have had to undergo gender tests before they can compete.

This has been described in various circles as degrading, to say the least. The same sources of information say that according to FIFA regulations it is sufficient for a team to feel there are reasons to believe that a player might be a man for a full enquiry to be launched, with any players who refuse to submit to examination being sanctioned.

According to Katrina Karzakis, a specialist in bioethics at Stanford University, this policy can lead to discrimination against women who do not fit with feminine norms and who are subjected to humiliating and stigmatising tests, as was the case with the South Korean player Park Eun-Seon in 2013.

This incident is just one of a string of alleged discriminatory practices adopted by FIFA against women footballers.

Does the Commission consider this rule to be in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and EU anti-discrimination legislation, and with the right to non-discrimination laid down in the constitutions of the EU Member States?