

Question for written answer E-012236/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Deterioration of the human rights situation in connection with international sports events

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is critical of the fact that relatively little attention is paid to human rights when deciding on the venues for major sports events. One example of this is Azerbaijan, which this year for the first time is hosting the 'European Games'. According to HRW, the government in Baku metes out harsh treatment to critics, journalists and human rights activists who accuse Azerbaijan of breaching human rights. Moreover, because of poor working conditions, many guest workers have been killed on building sites where facilities are being prepared for the Football World Cup.

A further example is Saudi Arabia, which has demanded that women's events at the 2016 Olympic Games be held in a different country. The Government of Saudi Arabia continues to demand that women should be banned from taking part in the Olympic Games.

1. How will the Commission ensure that human rights are not breached at the European Games this summer, and what plans are there for monitoring host countries more effectively in future?
2. Could the Commission introduce rules under which host countries would be selected more carefully in the light of their respect for human rights?