

**Question for written answer E-000148/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Third-party ownership/third-party investment (TPO/TPI)

In February, a number of professional football leagues complained to the Commission that FIFA's ban on third-parties owning the economic rights of football players, an arrangement known as third-party ownership/third-party investment (TPO/TPI), was incompatible with EU competition rules. However, this practice has been declared lawful by the Spanish competition authority, the *Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y de la Competencia*.

Some professional football leagues defend the practice because it allows clubs of modest means to sign the players needed to compete in national and European competitions. Consequently, they are calling for it to be better regulated but not banned. Other leagues, however, have decided not to permit TPO/TPI on the grounds that it may actually be counter-productive for the clubs themselves.

What is the Commission's view of the use of TPO/TPI by football clubs?

What does the Commission consider to be the implications of this practice in terms of free movement of capital and labour?