

**Question for written answer E-000546/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Spot fixing and live sports betting

In the ongoing betting-related match-fixing affair in tennis that the BBC has reported on, some of the witnesses involved said that one of the commonest forms of match fixing was for the favourite to take the lead so as to further increase the odds on the outsider and then deliberately to lose the match.

The European Parliament, in its resolution of 10 September 2013 on online gambling in the internal market, pointed out that spot fixing, such as betting on the score in sets, corner kicks and yellow cards, and live betting on sports events while they are under way have proved to be very vulnerable to match fixing and therefore pose a risk to the integrity of sport. It called on the Member States and online gambling operators to consider imposing a ban on these forms of betting or to make provision for such a ban through self-regulation.

On its website the Commission has announced that the gambling regulatory authorities of the EEA countries had signed a cooperation agreement on online gambling in November 2015 so as to jointly address challenges in this sector. The Commission had been assisting Member States in the preparation of this document.

Does the Commission have information about betting-related match fixing and spot fixing?

Does the Commission consider that spot fixing and live sports betting are a problem and did it issue any recommendations in this respect when preparing the EEA states' agreement in November 2015?