

**Question for written answer E-001480/2016/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sanctions imposed by UEFA for displaying democratic symbols

UEFA – the Union of European Football Associations – is the governing body of football in Europe, and currently comprises 54 national federations.

On 6 June 2015, during the UEFA Champions League final at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, F.C. Barcelona supporters displayed pro-Catalan independence flags and chanted pro-independence slogans, exercising their right to freedom of expression in a completely peaceful manner.

This right to freedom of expression, enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 11(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, led to a UEFA fine. Further fines were imposed on Barcelona by UEFA in subsequent Champions League games.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?
2. What plans does the Commission have in relation to respect for and the promotion of European values in the world of sport?