

**Question for written answer E-001592/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Ratification of the Council of Europe's Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions

The 'football gate' scandal in Belgium has illustrated the extent of corruption in sport. Popular sports such as football continue to be plagued by such scandals, but the risk to less popular sports is even higher, leaving fans and sponsors feeling disenfranchised.

In 2014, the EU, along with countries and global organisations, adopted the Macolin Convention, a legally binding international instrument designed to fight corruption on a global scale. The EU played a significant role in the drafting process.

A controversial legal opinion from the Council's legal service asserts that the EU may only sign mixed-competence treaties once the Council has given its unanimous consent. One Member State is preventing the EU from signing the Macolin Convention, and the EU institutions have been delaying its ratification over issues that should be resolved once the steering committee of the Convention has been established. That said, the Macolin Convention will soon enter into force, having been ratified by a number of non-EU countries. Once that has happened, most EU Member States will find themselves unable to contribute to the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions.

What steps will the Commission take to ensure that EU Member States can elect representatives to the future steering committee and play an active part in the decision-making process?