

**Question for written answer P-000786/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lara Comi (PPE)

Subject: Italy: violation of equal rights in top-level sport

The 1981 Law No 91, governing employment relationships in sport, defines a sports professional as a person who carries out paid sporting activities for a sports club on a continuous basis in any of the sports regulated by the CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee) in which professionalism has been recognised. What lies beneath that definition is gross gender discrimination as regards access to sport or having a say in sports decision-taking, being treated equally in terms of income and funding (scholarships, grants, sponsors), and obtaining proper media coverage. For many Italian women athletes, sport is in reality their work and their livelihood, but the law relegates them to a limbo without rules, protection (especially that afforded by pensions and social security), or rights and without fair recognition of their efforts and the successes that they have achieved.

- 1) What practical steps will the Commission take, not least where Italy is concerned, to ensure that top-class women athletes can enjoy equal treatment, as their male counterparts already do?
- 2) How is it supporting the promotion of women's sport in EU programmes and actions and what does it intend to do about discriminatory and sexually stereotypical attitudes in the media?