



0066/2015

11.11.2015

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the ban on third-party ownership of players in European sport

**Ivo Belet (PPE), Richard Corbett (S&D), Emma McClarkin (ECR), Jean-Marie Cavada (ALDE), Marc Tarabella (S&D), Milan Zver (PPE), Bogdan Wenta, (PPE), Antonio Tajani (PPE), Santiago Fisas Ayxela (PPE), Theodoros Zagorakis (PPE), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Ole Christensen (S&D), Siôn Simon (S&D), Virginie Rozière (S&D)**

Lapse date: 11.2.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the ban on third-party ownership of players in European sport<sup>1</sup>**

1. Respect for human dignity (Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union) is one of the values of the European Union, and the EU therefore aims to protect the integrity of sportsmen and women and to combat human trafficking.
2. There is a growing trend towards third-party ownership (TPO) in team sports in Europe, whereby players, many of whom are very young, are partially or fully 'owned' by private investors and can no longer determine the future path of their career.
3. TPO raises important concerns regarding the integrity of competitions, since the lack of transparency of TPO arrangements creates further risks of result manipulation, money laundering and other criminal activities, as well as some broader ethical considerations regarding what amounts to 'ownership' and 'trading' of the 'economic rights' of another human being.
4. The ownership of players by third-party investors is therefore strongly condemned.
5. A cross-border solution is required in order to effectively tackle the threats posed by TPO.
6. The decision to ban TPO as from 1 May 2015 is a very welcome one.
7. The Commission is called upon to incite Member States to support the ban and take additional measures to implement it in the EU.
8. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.