

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0432/00  
by Giorgos Katiforis (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Commission dispute with the International Automobile Federation

Can the Commission explain why it took until the end of June 1999 to issue its statement of objections against the International Automobile Federation (FIA) when the FIA voluntarily notified its rules and statutes to the Commission in July 1994, and can it state what technical reports were commissioned by the Competition Department in support of its objections?

Can the Commission explain why it saw a need to break its own rules of confidentiality and brief the press illegally regarding the FIA case, and, after its actions were condemned by the Court of First Instance, can it state what disciplinary action was taken against those who authorised this illegal action?

Can the Commission inform the House of the total costs involved in defending its case against the FIA in the Court of First Instance, including (a) the costs awarded against it, and (b) the man hours expended by the legal services in defending the case?

Can the Commission guarantee that if its statement of objections against the FIA is adopted, this will not lead to the current practice of free-to-air broadcasting of Formula One for European citizens being eroded or scrapped?

Can the Commission confirm that the report on sport by Commissioner Reding, adopted by the Commission in December 1999 and submitted to the Helsinki European Summit, is the most up-to-date and definitive statement by the Commission on the issue of sports governance and the application of internal market rules, and if so could the Commission confirm that all its departments would be expected to pay due regard of its contents when acting on behalf of the EU?