

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3000/03  
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to the Commission

Subject: Follow-up to the 'women's sport' resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 5 June 2003

On 15 September 2003, at the time of the Women's Football World Cup, it was announced that the American Women's Football Championship had been abolished. Despite clear progress, women's sport, across the board (schools, leisure and professional) needs to be supported.

In June 2003, the European Parliament, on my initiative, adopted a resolution dedicated to the issue of women and sport (P5-TA(2003)0269). The text's 46-odd proposals call on the European Union, the Member States and the sporting movement to put the issue of the effective equality of women and men in sport on their political agenda. The Commission has, thus far, done nothing to follow up this EP resolution.

The draft European constitution provides for a legal base for supportive action in the field of sport (Article 16), so as to promote the European dimension of sport, with particular regard to its social and educational role (Article III-182).

How does the Commissioner for sport, Mrs Viviane Reding, intend to follow up the EP resolution on women and sport? Will the Commission use the new legal framework for sport to make a favourable response to the demands set out in the resolution, and draw up the study of the situation of women in sport within Europe suggested by the Council of Sports Ministers meeting on 12 November 2001?

What initiatives are the Commission, and more particularly, its DG EAC going to take to promote women's sport and raise Member States' awareness of this policy issue (Community programmes and/or actions, Communication, White Paper, etc.)?

Could the European Union not seize the opportunity offered by the European location of the forthcoming 2004 Olympic Games to set out its vision of what sport is, by taking an active stance, as it did in the fight against doping, for equality between the sexes in sport, in terms of both access and practice?