

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4005/03
by Anna Terrón i Cusí (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Discrimination against Community children as regards access to sports federations in Spain

Any person who is a national of a Member State enjoys citizenship of the European Union, and any form of discrimination against them on the grounds of their nationality is prohibited under the Treaties and Articles 4 and 8 of the Draft European Constitution.

Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the right of children to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union lays down children's right to the protection and care necessary for their well-being.

Serious cases of discrimination against girls and boys are arising in Spain as regards access to sports leagues, as a result of administrative obstacles or the refusal of sports federations to grant them membership, despite the fact that they are Community citizens.

What is the Commission's view of the refusal by Spanish sports federations to grant membership cards to children who are Member State nationals, when this refusal means that they are unable to play sport?