

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3248/06
by Teresa Riera Madurell (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Pay discrimination at Wimbledon

Prize money at the Wimbledon tennis tournament is not the same for men and women. The winner of the men's tournament earns GBP 655 000 (EUR 946 000), while the women's winner receives GBP 625 000 (EUR 903 000), a difference of EUR 43 000 in favour of the men. This is a clear case of gender discrimination, as has already been pointed out by women players, such as Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams, and the UK Minister for Sport, Tessa Jowell.

Given the Commission communication of 21 February 1996 on incorporating equal opportunities for women and men into all Community policies and activities, the provisions of Council Directive 75/117/EEC¹ of 10 February 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women, the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (COM(2004)0279), which stipulates that 'equal work or work of equal value must be remunerated in the same way, the provisions of Articles 2 and 3 (gender mainstreaming and promoting equality), 141 (principle of equal pay), 136 (combating exclusion at work), 137 (equal opportunities on the labour market) and 13 (gender discrimination at and away from the workplace) of the EC Treaty, and with a view to the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in 2007:

Is the Commission aware of this situation? If it is, does it intend to take steps to ensure that the principle of gender equality and non-discrimination is observed in connection with the prize money on offer at Wimbledon, thus ensuring compliance with Article 141 of the Treaty and Community legislation in this area?

¹ OJ L 45, 19.2.1975, p. 19.