

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0490/07  
by Margrietus van den Berg (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Investigation into the building of FC Zwolle's stadium

The Commission wishes the Netherlands to explain how FC Zwolle's new football stadium is being financed. This gives the impression that European market rules have priority over public support for sport, whereas in this case it mainly seems to be a matter of support for local infrastructure.

Does the Commission agree that it is better to leave it to the democratically elected municipal council to consider the specific case locally and identify the most desirable mix of public and private sports infrastructure? It does not seem as if a significant European interest were at stake here or as if the European market were being distorted. FC Zwolle is not ranked in the highest division in the Netherlands. Of course, there may be differences of opinion as to the necessity and desirability of any particular approach, but will the Commission do what it can to allow Zwolle to take its own decisions?