

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3687/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Professional football in Europe

Sport, in particular football, constitutes an important element of European identity and culture, and European football is characterised by great competitiveness.

Professional football has both an economic and a social dimension and the economic aspects come under the competence of Community law. The national and European political and sports authorities have therefore to ensure that the application of Community law to professional football does not compromise football's social and cultural role, which means that an appropriate legal framework must be developed.

Professional football clubs cannot operate under the same conditions as other economic sectors, because they can survive only by a balanced form of competitiveness between teams.

In view of the report by Ivo Belet on the future of professional football in Europe, adopted by the European Parliament in March this year, does not the Commission consider that the various systems of taxation in the Member States may have the effect of distorting competition and the creation of a proper internal market as far as the economic aspects of professional sport are concerned?