

**Question for written answer E-005982/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Emine Bozkurt (S&D)**

Subject: Racism in the workplace

The EU adopted the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) with a view to guaranteeing equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, and the Employment Equality Framework Directive (2000/78/EC) with a view to combating discrimination in the work place. Furthermore, it adopted the Charter of Fundamental Rights in order to ensure that citizens are equal and that their rights are equally safeguarded. The Charter obliges Member States to take all necessary steps to safeguard the rights of all of their citizens and to combat all forms of racial and ethnic discrimination.

On 7 June 2012, the Dutch national football team was subjected to racial abuse during a public training session in Kraków, Poland, ahead of the opening match of the European Championships. Media reports claim that several hundred of the 23 000 spectators abused the team's black players with 'monkey chants'. Since football players are also employees, and sports clubs and stadiums are their workplace, professional sportspeople should have the right to a working environment that is free of racism, as do all other workers.

1. Is the Commission aware of this specific incident?
2. Is the Commission aware of other similar incidents?
3. How will the Commission ensure that Member States implement the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Equality Framework Directive with regard to employees in the sports sector?
4. What steps will the Commission take to prevent similar incidents and protect EU citizens from racism in the workplace?