

Question for written answer E-007477/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Peter Simon (S&D)

Subject: Sport: legality of charging fees for transfers to a club in another EU Member State

Sport offers people the chance to meet and get to know one another and to establish social networks; it helps immigrants build relationships with other members of society and can make a positive contribution to social cohesion in Europe. In the Commission's view, the European dimension to sport should be encouraged. All EU residents should have access to sport and the chance to take part in discrimination-free competitions in whatever sport they choose.

In practice, however, and more specifically in amateur sport, people seeking to transfer to a club in another EU Member State and take part in competitions there sometimes have to overcome significant financial obstacles. For example, amateur sportsmen and women may be required to pay substantial sums out of their own pockets in order to become eligible to play for their new clubs.

To take one specific example, in order to become eligible to play in the southern Baden handball league in Germany a Hungarian woman player was required to pay EUR 75 to the German Handball Federation, EUR 150 to the European Handball Federation and EUR 400 to the Hungarian club she played for previously, making a total of EUR 625 in 'fees'.

1. Is the Commission aware of the sums which amateur sportsmen and women have to pay in order to become eligible to play following a transfer to a club in another EU Member State?
2. Does the Commission regard this practice as legal?