

**Question for written answer E-011694/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sophie Auconie (PPE)

Subject: Eligibility of sports projects for ERDF funding

The Lisbon Treaty confers on the EU specific powers to take support, coordination and development measures in the area of sport, with the overall aim of developing the European dimension in sport (Article 165 TFEU).

In its communication on 'Developing the European Dimension in Sport' (COM(2011)0012), the Commission noted that 'sport has a strong potential to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and new jobs through its positive effects on social inclusion, education and training, and public health'.

The study on the contribution of sport to economic growth and employment in the EU, ordered by the Commission and published in November 2012, concludes that the share of EU GDP generated by sport is 1.76 %, and as much as 2.98 % if the indirect effects are also taken into account. It estimates that sport accounts for 2.12 % of jobs in the EU.

Convinced of the positive contribution that sport makes to growth and employment, Parliament has called for sports projects to be made eligible for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which is designed to support investments that stimulate growth and employment. The Commission's initial proposal for the ERDF Regulation did not, however, make provision for the funding of sports projects.

Why did the Commission not include sport in the scope of the ERDF Regulation, despite its positive contribution to growth and employment? Does the Commission share Parliament's view that sports projects should be made eligible for ERDF funding?