

**Question for written answer E-000273/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Sven Giegold (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Plans by the Spanish Government to allow 20 Spanish professional football clubs a waiver on at least part of their tax and social security debts, totalling EUR 1.3 billion

1. How does the Commission view the Spanish Government's plans in terms of fiscal policy, particularly in the context of Spain's current budget deficit of 5.8 %?
2. How does the Commission view the accusation that the waiving of debt gives the Spanish professional football clubs an advantage that distorts or threatens to distort competition, because they are benefiting from fiscal reliefs unavailable to other enterprises in the same financial position?
3. How does the Commission view the accusation that such a waiving of debt may have the effect of distorting competition, thus impacting on trade between the EU Member States, because some of the activities of the relevant sports clubs – such as the purchase of players or the marketing or television and broadcasting rights for European competitions like the Champions' League – take place at international level?
4. In this case, how does the Directorate General for Competition intend to meet its obligations to implement EU competition regulations so that all professional football clubs, which, because of their economic activity, are regarded as enterprises under the competition rules of the EC Treaty, can compete with each other under fair and equitable conditions?
5. What specific steps will the Commission take to ensure that the Spanish Government's plans do not contravene EU aid rules under the terms of Article 87(1) EC Treaty?
6. To what extent does the Commission recognise a fundamental need for action in this case in order to ensure equal treatment for professional sports clubs across Europe when it comes to taxation?