

**Question for written answer E-009482/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE) and Olli Rehn (ALDE)

Subject: Application of competition rules to international sports federations

In June 2014 an official complaint was filed with the Commission as regards the fact that the International Skating Union (ISU) effectively denies its members the right to participate in alternative sports events that are not sanctioned by it, even when the dates do not conflict with its competition calendar. In cases of non-compliance, athletes, officials and coaches may face a life ban from all ISU competitions, including the Winter Olympic Games and the world championships.

Would the Commission agree that this is contrary to the principles of fair competition and freedom of movement?

Would the Commission agree that the Treaties, and in particular the competition rules, apply to any economic activity, including sports, performing arts and culture, and that these sectors and activities should not be treated differently from other economic and commercial activities?

Will the Commission process such complaints, even if they are small in terms of numbers, given that they concern an international federation which falls outside the scope of the national competition authorities and the Commission is therefore the appropriate authority to contact?