

**Question for written answer E-002376/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI), Clara Ponsatí Obiols (NI)

Subject: LGBTIQ rights during the FIFA Qatar World Cup

Homosexuality is illegal in Qatar¹, which will host the FIFA World Cup. Although Qatar is fully aware of its responsibility to adhere to FIFA's expectations and requirements on human rights, equality and non-discrimination, there have been worrying declarations from Qatari officials. The most recent example is from Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Ansari, who has cautioned LGBTQ+ fans who intend to go to the World Cup not to bring LGBTQ+ flags into venues².

In March 2021, the European Parliament declared the European Union an 'LGBTIQ Freedom Zone'³.

This was done in response to the broader context of increased discrimination and attacks against the LGBTIQ community, and also to insist that the Commission use all tools at its disposal to address violations of the fundamental rights of LGBTIQ people.

1. How will the Commission ensure that the fundamental rights of EU LGBTIQ citizens will be protected at the FIFA-sponsored event?
2. What measures will the Commission take to hold FIFA and the Qatari authorities responsible for any fundamental rights violations?
3. Does the Commission share the view expressed by the Qatari authorities with regard to bringing LGBTQ+ flags into venues? Will a formal complaint be made with regard to these views?

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2022/apr/02/why-qatar-is-done-with-saying-sorry-for-human-rights-and-equality-issues>

² <https://www.espn.com/soccer/fifa-world-cup/story/4631260/world-cup-director-warns-rainbow-flags-could-be-taken-away-from-supporters>

³ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99219/parliament-declares-the-european-union-an-lgbtiq-freedom-zone>