

**Question for written answer E-002486/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Niels Fuglsang (S&D)

Subject: Partnerships between clubs in European football

In recent years, the number of club partnerships in the form of multi-club ownership arrangements in the football industry has been steadily increasing. According to UEFA's annual report on 'The European Club Footballing Landscape', 82 top-division clubs, or 11% of the total, have a cross-investment partnership with one or more other clubs¹. UEFA itself is aware of the problem, as it distorts the transfer market, while others take the view that it creates unfair competition and encourages the formation of monopolies in European club football. Given the increasing number of club partnerships in European football and the consequences that has for the football industry:

1. How does the Commission view the fact that the number of club partnerships in European football has been steadily increasing in recent years?
2. Does the Commission take the view that club partnerships in European football are helping to create unfair competition in the European football industry?
3. Does the Commission believe that it is possible to introduce European legislation to limit the scope of club partnerships and, if it does, does it plan to do so?

Submitted: 30.8.2023

¹ <https://www.uefa.com/returntoplay/news/027e-1747598eeb3b-436611261ff3-1000--how-european-football-has-emerged-from-the-pandemic-detailed/>