

**Question for oral answer O-00022/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the S&D Group

Subject: Match-fixing and corruption in sport

On Monday, 4 February 2013 Europol stated that it had uncovered an extensive criminal network involved in fixing football matches across Europe. According to the Europol investigation, 380 matches in Europe are deemed suspicious. Additionally, Europol has stated that 425 referees, players, club officials and serious criminals are under investigation and that 50 people have so far been arrested. According to Europol, this is just the 'tip of the iceberg'. The driving force behind the criminal network is suspected to be an organised crime syndicate based in Asia. The inability of Member States to tackle the involvement of organised crime in sport is now seriously threatening to ruin the integrity of sport in Europe.

The Commission is waiting for the Council of Europe to set up a convention on combating match-fixing. However, the convention is only expected to be completed in the second half of 2014 and it is not yet clear if all EU Member States will decide to sign it. Considering that match-fixing is an act that is connected to border-transcending criminal activities such as money laundering, human and drug trafficking, extortion and intimidation, an EU-wide approach is urgently needed.

1. Is the Commission aware of the involvement of organised crime in European professional football?
2. The Commission is addressing the 'sport' aspect of match-fixing through the activities of the Sport Unit. However, can the Commission explain how it is addressing the judicial aspects of match-fixing?
3. Is the Commission planning to adopt a comprehensive approach to combating the involvement of organised crime in European sport?

Tabled: 28.2.2013

Forwarded: 4.3.2013

Deadline for reply: 11.3.2013