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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on match-fixing and corruption in sport  
(2013/2567(RSP))

**Morten Løkkegaard, Hannu Takkula, Liam Aylward, Robert Rochefort,  
Nadja Hirsch, Jürgen Creutzmann**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on match-fixing and corruption in sport  
(2013/2567(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication of 23 October 2012 entitled ‘Towards a comprehensive European framework for online gambling’ (COM(2012)0596) and the accompanying staff working document (SWD(2012)0345),
  - having regard to the Nicosia Declaration of 20 September 2012 on the Fight Against Match-Fixing,
  - having regard to the Commission communication of 18 January 2011 entitled ‘Developing the European Dimension in Sport’ (COM(2011)0012),
  - having regard to its resolution of 2 February 2012 on the European dimension in sport<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2011 on online gambling in the Internal Market<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 10 March 2009 on the integrity of online gambling<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to the Commission White Paper on Sport (COM(2007)0391),
  - having regard to its resolution of 14 April 2005 on combating doping in sport<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the Commission communication on ‘Fighting Corruption in the EU’ (COM(2011)0308),
  - having regard to the Commission Recommendation for a Council Decision Authorising the European Commission to participate, on behalf of the EU, in the negotiations for an international convention of the Council of Europe to combat the manipulation of sports results (COM(2012)0655),
  - having regard to the Council of Europe Convention of 19 August 1985 on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and to its Anti-Doping Convention of 16 November 1989,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a Europol joint investigation team (JIT) code-named ‘Operation Veto’ revealed widespread football match-fixing in recent years, with 680 matches deemed to be suspicious globally, including 380 matches in Europe, and whereas it described a

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2012)0025.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0492.

<sup>3</sup> OJ 87 E, 1.4.2010, p. 30.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 33 E, 9.2.2006, p. 590.

wide-ranging match-fixing network that struck at the sport's core, with 425 people under suspicion and 50 others having been arrested;

- B. whereas these figures are merely the 'tip of the iceberg';
  - C. whereas a large number of Member States have been affected by match-fixing, which is a cause for serious concern since it is related to organised crime and is a major source of risk to the sporting establishment in practically all the Member States;
  - D. whereas match-fixing is a form of crime which generates high revenues but has excessively low sentencing and detection rates, and is thus used as a tool by criminal organisations in their activities such as money laundering and human and drug trafficking;
  - E. whereas criminal organisations are operating on a large international scale and have connections across the globe, such that no single institution, country or organisation would be able to tackle match-fixing on its own;
  - F. whereas all sports can be affected and the integrity of sport is at risk of being ruined;
  - G. whereas transparency, accountability and democracy – in other words, good governance – in sports organisations are prerequisites for the sports movement to play any kind of successful role in fighting match-fixing and sport fraud;
  - H. whereas many sports organisations have already taken measures in this area, such as developing codes of conduct and adopting zero-tolerance policies;
1. Calls on all the main stakeholders individually to take responsibility and to develop a comprehensive approach by complementing one another's efforts to combat match-fixing in sport;
  2. Asks the Commission to develop a coordinated approach to the fight against match-fixing and organised crime by coordinating the efforts of sports organisations, national police and judicial authorities and gambling operators in this area and by providing a platform for discussion and the exchange of information and best practice;
  3. Calls on sports organisations to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on corruption, both internally and externally, in order to prevent their members from being liable to external pressure;
  4. Urges sports organisations to establish a code of conduct for all staff and officials (players, coaches, referees, medical and technical staff and club and association leaders) which sets out the dangers of match-fixing, stipulates the sanctions for involvement in it and includes a ban – accompanied by sanctions – on gambling on own matches and an obligation to report any awareness of match-fixing, with an adequate whistleblower protection mechanism;
  5. Stresses the importance of education in protecting the integrity of sport; calls, therefore, on the Member States and on sports federations to inform and educate sportspeople and consumers adequately, starting from a young age, at all levels of sport, both amateur and

professional;

6. Encourages sports organisations to start up comprehensive prevention programmes entailing clear obligations for clubs, leagues and federations, and to set up a disciplinary body to deal with match-fixing;
7. Encourages sports organisations to apply high and convincing standards of governance;
8. Calls on those sports organisations that already have zero-tolerance policies and codes of conduct in place to review these policies regularly and make sure they are working as intended;
9. Notes that all the Member States have criminalised match-fixing and laid down sanctions for it in their national law, and that difficulties in prosecuting it tend to be more of an operational than a legal nature; calls on the Commission to support the exchange of information and best practice between Member States in order to improve the enforcement of anti-match-fixing rules;
10. Calls on the Commission to assess the differences in the levels of sanctions and penalties imposed for match-fixing and, if appropriate, to explore the possibility of introducing common minimum standards;
11. Welcomes the ongoing discussions on a possible Council of Europe convention to combat the manipulation of sports results, which will provide national systems with the necessary tools, expertise and resources to combat this threat; calls on the Member States swiftly to adopt this international legal instrument;
12. Asks the Member States to create a specialised law enforcement unit to combat match-fixing and serve as a hub for communication and cooperation with the main stakeholders, and to require gambling operators to provide information on irregular gambling patterns to this specialised unit and to sports organisations for further investigation and referral to prosecution authorities;
13. Calls on the Member States to enhance law enforcement cooperation through joint investigation teams and cooperation between prosecution authorities; stresses the need for measures to combat illegal betting websites and anonymous betting;
14. Calls on the Member States to set up national (government) regulatory agencies (like the Gambling Commission in the UK) to combat illegal gambling activities and corruption; stresses the need for close cooperation with other regulators, including licensing authorities and bodies such as the police;
15. Stresses the urgent need to establish a multi-stakeholder body in order to collect, exchange, analyse and disseminate evidence of match-fixing, sports fraud and other forms of corruption in sport, both in Europe and beyond; considers that this body should also compile best practice in the fight against corruption in sport and promote concepts of good governance in sport; notes that the first opportunity to discuss this may be the Fifth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS), to be held in Berlin in May 2013;

16. Urges the Commission to communicate, and establish cooperation, with third countries with a view to combating the organised crime associated with match-fixing;
17. Calls on the Commission to identify countries that raise specific issues as regards betting-related match-fixing in respect of sports events taking place within the EU and to increase its collaboration with those countries in the fight against match-fixing;
18. Calls on the Commission to establish a global forum against match-fixing, in which all the relevant actors can meet, exchange information and coordinate their action;
19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and European, international and national sports organisations.