

**Question for written answer E-001703/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikos Pappas (The Left)

Subject: Public money, private profits and the integrity of the European sports model

Recent reports¹ have revealed that the company Qualco, which benefits from significant public contracts, many of which are co-financed by EU funds under the Recovery and Resilience Fund, is the main and exclusive sponsor of the Athinaikos WBC women's basketball team, having even acquired naming rights for the team.

This case raises serious questions about the use of EU funds to create private advantages, transparency in public contracts and the distortion of balance in sport, especially when smaller clubs do not have access to similar sources of funding.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission ensure that funds from public contracts and EU programmes are not used, directly or indirectly, for private promotion activities, such as the sponsorship of professional sports clubs?
2. Under what conditions could the channelling of funds by companies that are heavily dependent on public contracts to specific sports bodies constitute indirect state aid within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to enhance transparency, prevent conflicts of interest and protect the balance and social dimension of the European sports model?

Submitted: 27.4.2026

¹ https://www.sdna.gr/mpasket/1424018_qualco-o-megas-horigos-toy-athinaikoy-poy-xekinise-os-eispraktiki-ki-egine-kolossos.