

Question for written answer E-003516/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (S&D)

Subject: Access criteria for transnational club competitions following Case C-333/21

In Case C-333/21, the Court of Justice of the European Union held that UEFA's rules on the prior approval of interclub competitions infringe Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union where they are not subject to substantive criteria and procedural rules ensuring transparency, objectivity, precision, non-discrimination and proportionality.

UEFA's Authorisation Rules Governing International Club Competitions (Edition 2024) do not state whether an authorised transnational club competition – including one situated above national leagues, with promotion, relegation and solidarity payments – would carry places in the UEFA Champions League, Europa League or Conference League, how many such places, at what stage of qualification they would enter, or by reference to what criteria this would be determined. Article 51bis of the UEFA Statutes devolves decisions on access to European club competitions to each national association.

1. Does the Commission consider the absence of published criteria governing access to UEFA club competitions for an authorised transnational competition to be compatible with the judgment in Case C-333/21?
2. Does the Commission consider that devolving that decision to the national associations affected satisfies the requirement of non-discrimination?
3. Given the Commission's support for the European sport model and its principles of openness and sporting merit, will the Commission examine whether the allocation of guaranteed access within UEFA's club competitions is consistent with those principles, particularly as regards smaller member associations?

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