

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001590/24
to the Commission
Fernand Kartheiser (ECR)
(2 September 2024)**

Subject: Does the Commission consider the participation of biological men in women's sport to be an obstacle to equal opportunities for women and men?

At the Paris Olympic Games, a women's boxing match led to a serious incident. An athlete with high levels of testosterone won a bout against an Italian boxer after just 46 seconds. There is little doubt that the health of the Italian boxer was put at serious risk, which was why she abandoned the fight.

This incident raises once again the question of the presence of intersex athletes or athletes with rare sexual characteristics in women's sport. It is unfair and risky for women to have to compete against people with XY chromosomes, who are therefore biologically male. The participation of biological men in women's sport risks bringing female sport to an end.

1. What is the Commission's view of this incident and what conclusions can it draw from it?
2. Does it consider the participation of biological men (people with XY chromosomes) in women's sport to be an obstacle to equal opportunities for women and men?
3. Will it commit to re-establishing a strict separation of the sexes in sport?

Submitted: 2.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ivanova on behalf of the European Commission
(22 November 2024)**

The Commission recognises the autonomy of sport organisations and supports a European Sport Model ⁽¹⁾ based on the values of integrity, inclusion, and fairness.

Independent sport's governing bodies are responsible for setting the rules and regulations establishing eligibility requirements for competitions.

The Commission notes that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has its own rules on participation of transgender or intersex athletes and confirmed that the athlete referred to in the written question respected the IOC's eligibility requirements to participate in the Olympic women's boxing competition, welterweight category.

The Commission will continue to promote sport for all, gender equality and inclusivity in sport in line with the priorities set out in the EU Work Plan for Sport 2024-2027 ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ For more information on the concept of European Sport Model: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d10b4b5b-e159-11ec-a534-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9771-2024-INIT/en/pdf>