

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004056/25
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(15 October 2025)**

Subject: Abusive behaviour in sport — Athletes must be better protected

According to the recent European Parliament resolution on the role of EU policies in shaping the European Sport Model (A10-0157/2025), the protection of athletes from all forms of violence, abuse and harassment is a fundamental priority of the Union. However, recent incidents of abusive behaviour in sport highlight serious shortcomings in the protection of athletes. In Greece, a sailing coach was accused of raping an 11-year-old athlete, while in Italy and Spain allegations of psychological and physical abuse have not led to any substantive sanctions.

The European Union, on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2021/817, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, must ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all athletes, with European protection standards and effective reporting mechanisms.

Accordingly:

1. How does the Commission intend to proceed with the immediate implementation of the recommendations of this resolution and to strengthen the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/817 on preventing and combating abusive behaviour in sport?
2. Will the Commission promote guidance and European protection standards, as well as complaint procedures for sports clubs and federations, in order to facilitate the prompt and independent investigation of incidents?
3. Will the Commission consider establishing a European coordination mechanism for the protection of athletes?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(26 November 2025)**

The Commission acknowledges the recent European Parliament resolution and is committed to take appropriate actions in line with its competences.

The Commission supports awareness raising, best practice exchange and capacity building in partnership with Member States and in dialogue with stakeholders, as well as combating violence against children and promotion of relevant child safeguards in different settings including in after-school activities, cultural activities and sports, as well as in public spaces ⁽¹⁾. These efforts are integrated within the current EU Work Plan for Sport as well ⁽²⁾.

Dedicated Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Groups on promoting athletes' rights in the context of good governance as well as on the fight against hate speech in sport will foster exchanges and dialogue by bringing together representatives and experts from Member States and identify recommendations for combating abusive behaviour and the protection of athletes' rights.

Moreover, EU funding programmes such as Erasmus+, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values help to prevent and combat abusive behaviour in sport while protecting athletes and promoting integrity in sport.

Cases of harassment, abuse and violence often fall under criminal law and shall be addressed by the competent authorities in the Member States.

The primary responsibility for putting in place appropriate procedures and initiatives rests at national level, in line with the principle of self-governance of sport organisations.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child, OJ L, 2024/1238, 14.5.2024.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 3527, 3.6.2024, p.1-15.