

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000729/26
to the Commission
Emma Fourreau (The Left)
(20 February 2026)**

Subject: Combating gender-based and sexual violence in sport in the EU

Sexual and gender-based violence in sport is an alarming phenomenon that is present throughout the EU. The case in Nice, in France, involving coaches accused of sexually assaulting young gymnasts, illustrates the seriousness of the problem and the vulnerability of minors, women and LGBTI individuals when they are dependent on managers. Violence of that nature has dramatic consequences for victims' physical and psychological health and undermines the fundamental principle of safe and inclusive sport.

Within the scope of its powers to combat discrimination and protect fundamental rights:

1. What steps will the Commission take at schools and sports clubs to prevent that violence from the outset, in particular, through educational programmes and mandatory European standards for federations and clubs?
2. Is it considering establishing an EU mechanism for reporting and protecting victims, providing swift and independent assistance?
3. What will it do to support the Member States in the compulsory training of sports managers in preventing violence and supporting gender equality?

Submitted: 20.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(20 April 2026)**

The Commission condemns any form of violence, in sport or elsewhere. Under Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the EU contributes to developing the European dimension in sport, including by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest.

On 5 March 2026 the Commission adopted a new EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 ⁽¹⁾ that prioritises ending gender-based violence. It strengthens actions in prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution of perpetrators.

The directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ⁽²⁾ provides a strong EU-wide legal framework to fight gender-based violence and protect victims, including in sport.

The EU Work Plan for Sport ⁽³⁾ (2024-2027) calls for prevention of harassment, abuse and violence in sport. Measures under this Plan aim to help Member States make the sport environment safer.

The High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport ⁽⁴⁾ developed recommendations addressed to the Commission, Member States, international, national and grassroots sport organisations on how to effectively fight gender-based violence.

Sport governing bodies have autonomy to independently govern their sport and are responsible for standard setting within the bounds of EU law and in compliance with EU fundamental rights.

The EU-Council of Europe joint project All in Plus ⁽⁵⁾ reported that the proportion of sport federations with policies in place to combat gender-based violence increased from 25% in 2019 to 39% in 2023.

Erasmus+ projects address safeguarding standards, such as training for sport leaders, reporting and victim-support mechanisms and guidance for clubs and federations.

An example is the SAFE HARBOUR ⁽⁶⁾ project, which aims to develop a European safeguarding response framework for sport organisations.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/1f5fa936-9fba-4435-93f5-32fa220bac82_en?filename=gender-equality-strategy-2026-2030.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9771-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/684ab3af-9f57-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/gender-equality-in-sport>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.eurolympic.org/safe-harbour/project/>.