

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000793/26
to the Commission
Carolina Morace (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Pasquale Tridico (The Left)
(25 February 2026)**

Subject: Transparency and worker protection vis-a-vis the End-of-Career Indemnity Fund for Football Players and Coaches in Italy

In Italy, football players and coaches have to make pension contributions to the End-of-Career Indemnity Fund, which was established in 1975. Many former players and coaches claim that neither the Fund's financial statements nor any information pertaining to how these resources are being managed is made available to members, even though the latter's contributions are automatically deducted from their wages.

Doubts have therefore arisen about whether the EU principles concerning transparency, social protections for workers and good governance — enshrined by Article 151 TFEU, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 15 and 31), principle 12 of the European Pillar of Social Rights and Directive (EU) 2016/2341 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (IORPs) — are being upheld.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that a compulsory pension scheme for professional sportspeople that does not guarantee its members suitable rights concerning access to information and financial statements to be in line with EU law?
2. Will the Commission check whether end-of-career schemes for professional footballers in the Member States comply with EU transparency and worker protection standards?
3. Will the Commission take steps to strengthen social protections and pension funds in the sports sector at European level?

Submitted: 25.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)**

The qualification of a pension scheme, including whether it provides retirement benefits within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2016/2341 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the activities carried out, the characteristics of the scheme, and the nature and purpose of the benefits provided, irrespective of its legal form or designation under national law.

Where a scheme falls within the scope of the directive, members should have access to clear and adequate information on their rights and on the management of the scheme.

Members are also to be provided with regular, accurate information on that scheme, including on accrued entitlements, contributions and costs and on the financial position and investment policy of the scheme.

The Commission does not systematically check individual schemes. Responsibility for ensuring compliance with the applicable requirements of EU law lies with the competent authorities of the Member States, including whether a particular scheme falls within the scope of the directive.

The Commission continues to work on strengthening occupational retirement provision at EU level, and notably through its proposal to review the directive ⁽²⁾.

That proposal aims to strengthen trust in supplementary pensions and to support better returns and outcomes for savers by enhancing the framework, improving governance and risk management, and enabling more effective long-term investment of retirement savings across sectors.

That proposal also seeks to improve transparency for institutions falling within the scope of that directive and on the information provided to members and beneficiaries, while respecting Member States' competences.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2016/2341 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (IORPs) (recast) (OJ L 354, 23.12.2016, p. 37, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/2341/oj>).

⁽²⁾ COM/2025/842 final.