

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002578/26
to the Commission**

**Carolina Morace (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left),
Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left)**
(23 June 2026)

Subject: Protecting fundamental rights at major international sporting events

Major international sporting events have a considerable impact on fundamental rights, including workers' rights, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, non-discrimination, gender equality and the safety of LGBTIQ+ people.

In recent years, a number of international competitions have prompted concerns over a disregard for human rights, both during and in the run-up to the events.

Given the critical nature of this issue:

1. Will the Commission support the creation of a permanent EU mechanism to monitor respect for human rights at major international sporting events?
2. Will it urge FIFA, UEFA and the International Olympic Committee to adopt compulsory minimum standards on fundamental rights, which should apply before events are awarded?
3. Does it believe that all EU funding in this context should be contingent on verifiable criteria designed to safeguard human rights, guard against discrimination and protect the safety of those involved?

Submitted: 23.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(7 October 2026)

Within its competences, the Commission ensures respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (the Charter) ⁽¹⁾, including the principle of non-discrimination, and recalls that these rights are a core value of the EU considered across relevant policy areas.

The Commission supports the promotion of high standards on fundamental rights in sport governance. It regularly engages in dialogue with sport governing bodies and encourages them to continue strengthening their policies, while positively noting that major international sporting events happening in Europe are already setting high global standards.

The Commission continues supporting fundamental rights in connection with sport events, while taking into account the principle of autonomy of sport and considering that the organisation of sport falls within the remit of sport federations.

Insofar as EU funding programmes are concerned, they already require project proposals to respect values, as stated under Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ⁽²⁾, the EU budget must be implemented in full compliance with the Charter and Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

This applies throughout the entire life cycle of EU-funded actions. Serious breaches of wrongful conduct during project implementation may lead to proportionate measures, such as suspension of payments, termination of the agreement, reduction of the grant or recovery of amounts unduly paid.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng>.