

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Undermining financial fair play (FFP) + infringement on fair competition

The agreement of 2012 between the Commission and UEFA regarding FFP aims to create a level playing field for European football clubs to compete with one another.

The central pillar of FFP is the fact that a club's sports related expenses should align with the revenues. These goals are in line with the objectives of European state aid rules, which foresee that operators can't gain extra advantages through public subsidies.

FFP rules and the aforementioned agreement are undermined by some football clubs, a.o. PSG, executing very expensive transfer purchases, e.g. Neymar & Mbappé, via a "taking on loan" construction. UEFA already started an investigation into these practices.

1. How does the Commission evaluate the aforementioned agreement in the light of recent developments regarding taking players on loan, and does the Commission share the view that these practices undermine the purpose of the agreement?
2. Does the Commission agree that undermining the agreement would no longer guarantee the level playing field in the European football competitions?
3. Does the Commission agree that the ownership of European football clubs by authorities or agencies, that have (financial) ties with (third country) governments, can constitute an infringement against the principle of fair competition?