

**Question for written answer E-014891/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The role of sport in today's society

The European Week of Sport highlights the powerful role of sport in promoting tolerance and open societies in Europe. At a time when Europe is facing what is probably its toughest ever challenge, sport has an important role in promoting social inclusion and responding to exclusion and radicalisation. Sport is not only a physical activity, but also a social activity, bringing people from different backgrounds together, building bridges between different parts of our society, promoting intercultural dialogue and helping build communities.

As sport is a force for positive change in our societies, it is very important to find ways of harnessing this force even more effectively. European sport policy must be strongly interlinked with the Commission's political priorities on social and economic issues. The aim is to show citizens how easily they can make sport and physical activity part of their daily lives – lives that are shared with others, from whatever background.

1. How does the Commission plan to reduce social inequality in patterns of sport participation?
2. What new initiatives are being introduced by the Commission to encourage the practice of sport both individually and collectively (regardless of gender, age and social background)?