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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on professional athletes' labour rights

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Lapse date: 12.12.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on professional athletes' labour rights¹

1. Despite the sport industry's tremendous growth over the last decades, thousands of professional athletes around Europe, who are the true protagonists of each sport, are still being deprived of their fundamental labour rights.
2. There are more than 50 000 professional athletes in Europe today, the vast majority of whom are ordinary workers earning low or average incomes who are often working in precarious and risky conditions with poor social protection.
3. Professional athletes are regularly confronted with various abusive employment practices such as bogus self-employment, non-payment of wages, insufficient health and safety standards, insurance and pension provisions, restricted access to labour courts, limitations on free movement, etc. The current regulatory framework aggravates these infringements.
4. This is a deplorable situation, and the time has come for the EU to take concrete action to end the systematic abuse of the labour rights of professional athletes.
5. The Commission is therefore called upon to present a comprehensive action plan for the promotion of minimum employment standards for professional athletes in Europe, based on a Union-level agreement covering all social partners in the sport sector.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.