

Manuscript
EU and sport
BRT, Germany

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Presenter

Sport has always connected people. People in Europe move closer together. Borders and prejudices are overcome. This offers many opportunities but also a lot of duties – especially for sports – that have to be faced. How will sports clubs change and which problems and risks will occur for the professional sports clubs? We have asked some questions.

Duration: 3'07

Translation

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Presenter (00:02:00 – 02:00:22)

Sport has always connected people. People in Europe move closer together. Borders and prejudices are overcome. This offers many opportunities but also a lot of duties – especially for sports – that have to be faced. How will sports clubs change and which problems and risks will occur for the professional sports clubs? We have asked some questions.

Question:

I am member of the tennis club Nürnberg-Langwasser and we have already talked about what will happen, in terms of subsidies from the EU for example. That is something that would interest me.

Lissy Gröner (00:02:40 – 00:03:15)

Insert: 00:02:42 – 00:02:52 (Lissy Gröner, SPD, Member of the European Parliament)

The European Union does not subsidize a lot of sport. That is reserved for the individual states. However, we can do a lot to promote popular sports in general. We declared the year 2004 the European year of „Education through sports“. That is all we can do. Therefore, eight million euros are spent, but that is already all the money available for sports from the European Union, the rest has to be paid by the national countries.

Question (00:03:16 – 00:03:25):

I would like to know whether there will be a European League in which the best national clubs compete with each other and what would be even more interesting whether that would be financially possible.

Lissy Gröner (00:03:26 – 00:03:52):

Insert: 00:03:28 – 00:03:38 (Lissy Gröner, SPD, Member of the European Parliament)

I think that this is something the clubs will organize since this is a very profitable business. When it comes to setting fair rules for the competition, the European Union will be responsible for providing fair rules.

Question:

I play baseball, which still is not that popular here. Do you plan to make baseball more popular by promoting it in the European Union for example? Will the European Union arrange partnerships?

Lissy Gröner (00:04:02 – 00:04:14)

Insert: 00:04:04 – 00:04:14 (Lissy Gröner, SPD, Member of the European Parliament)

We do not have a project that offers subsidies for that. We only can improve the preconditions and set clear rules especially when it comes to professional sport.

Question:

I would like to know how simple it will be to transfer professional soccer players under the new EU regulations.

Lissy Gröner (00:04:23 – 00:05:07):

Insert: 00:04:25 – 00:04:35 (Lissy Gröner, SPD, Member of the European Parliament)

Some exiting developments have taken place. There has been a verdict by the European Court that says something to the effect that modern slave trade is now over. One team is now able to have more than three foreign players or European players, but fair preconditions have to be created. EU regulations rule discrimination out, which also applies for professional sport and insofar the employees – in this case the professional soccer players – must also have a saying, when sold from one club to another. The European Court made a clear statement, which I think was a good thing to do.
