

**Question for written answer E-011498/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Benedek Jávor (Verts/ALE), Barbara Lochbihler (Verts/ALE), Bodil Valero (Verts/ALE), Terry Reintke (Verts/ALE), Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE) and Ulrike Lunacek (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EU reaction to anti-Roma protests in Bulgaria

Anti-Roma protests started in May in Bulgaria, in Garmen, south-west Bulgaria, and Orlandovzi in Sofia. According to civil society organisations, the conflicts were sparked by political parties in the context of the forthcoming local elections. Following the protests, many Roma, including children, were attacked and beaten. As a response, the government has decided to install cameras to carry out surveillance of Roma communities, to start demolition of houses built without permission and to evict about 300 families.

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation described?
2. Are the surveillance and evictions on ethnic grounds compliant with Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, and how should the government react to anti-Roma protests in light of Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law?
3. How did the Bulgarian Government spend the EU funding earmarked for Roma inclusion in 2007–2013 in terms of outcome, and what is the Commission doing to ensure that this funding is used to help Roma communities, and especially to tackle the issues of housing and unemployment?