

**Question for written answer P-011768/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Soraya Post (S&D)

Subject: Violent protests against the Roma in Bulgaria

The Parliament took a clear stance against anti-Gypsyism in its resolution of 15 April this year, which was strongly supported by the Commission and Council in the preceding debate. In its communication on the EU framework this year, the Commission rightly stated that 'anti-Gypsyism, far right demonstrations, hate speech and hate crime have been on the rise' and that 'Politicians and public authorities often failed to publicly condemn such negative trends.'

Currently in Bulgaria there are ongoing violent protests against Roma, particularly in the villages Garmen and Orlandozvi, with demands for the demolition of Roma settlements. The government has accommodated this demand by initiating the demolition of 124 houses where Roma live without offering alternative housing. Therefore the ECHR has now decided that the evictions will stop. The government has not been able to end to the protests and violence.

The events in Bulgaria are a clear manifestation of anti-Gypsyism and it is the responsibility of the Commission to make clear that EU legislation and fundamental rights are upheld in all Member States.

What is the Commission intending to do with regard to the situation in Bulgaria in order to make sure that its government protects the Roma from violence and hate speech and complies with the charter of fundamental rights, especially in cases of evictions?