

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3603/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Social assistance the first step on the road to deportation

The German Government is continuing to pursue a policy of summary expulsions, which is all the more serious in view of the infringement proceedings being brought against Germany under Article 48 of the Treaty and the fact that it is being applied to the most vulnerable sections of the community, such as migrant workers from other EU countries who have become unemployed, or pensioners whose income is less than DEM 1200, and who are therefore eligible to receive social assistance.

The German Government's current practice, which disregards the right of freedom of movement and freedom of establishment, clearly shows that if a citizen works and is productive (and pays tax) he is accepted and protected, regardless of his country of origin; but if his presence is no longer convenient in economic terms, he is rejected and, worse still, expelled from the country.

Yet another case of expulsion, reported by Mr Zoratto, a member of the Comites di Stoccarda (Stuttgart-based migrant workers') council and the CGIE (general council of Italians abroad), involves a citizen from the Veneto who has been living in Costanza since 1961 and, now that he is receiving social assistance, is being denied his right of residence.

Would the Commission approach the German Government to ask it to halt the expulsion procedure in this case?

Would the Commission urge the German authorities to raise the social assistance threshold and thus prevent such frequent recourse to the expulsion procedure?