

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0001/05  
by Antonio De Poli (PPE-DE)  
to the Council

Subject: Crime in Pordenone and other European cities

Four minors, three Albanian and one Italian, have been arrested for belonging to a gang of 15 people that has for months held in its grip the city of Pordenone in the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region of north-eastern Italy. During the period they were active, these criminals managed, besides committing robberies and occasioning damage to places and possessions, to harass people with disabilities and homosexuals, affronting their human dignity and threatening their physical integrity, and thereby contravening Article II-63 of the European Constitution, which states that 'Everyone has the right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity', and Article II-61 thereof, which reads 'Human dignity is inviolable. It must be protected and respected'. One should point out that 2003 was the European Year of People with Disabilities and numerous awareness-raising initiatives were launched to eradicate prejudices and promote social integration. Only the intervention of the police prevented this gang from continuing to go unpunished and threatening the peace, safety and lives of the inhabitants of Pordenone.

Is the Council aware of the serious events that have taken place in Pordenone? What action will it take to safeguard the physical, mental and moral integrity of European citizens from the spread of violence?

The principle of non-discrimination is laid down in Article II-81 of Part II of the European Constitution: 'Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.'

Why is it, in the Council's opinion, that today, 23 December 2004, we still find ourselves having to submit questions on odious episodes of discrimination, despite the European, national and local awareness campaigns implemented and the articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which forms an integral part of the European Constitution?