

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4567/05

by Roberto Musacchio (GUE/NGL), Nicola Zingaretti (PSE), Monica Frassoni (Verts/ALE), Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL), Giusto Catania (GUE/NGL), Marco Pannella (ALDE), Giovanni Fava (PSE), Vittorio Agnoletto (GUE/NGL), Luciana Sbarbati (ALDE), Antonio Di Pietro (ALDE), Giulietto Chiesa (ALDE), Umberto Guidoni (GUE/NGL) and Emma Bonino (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: The 'Equality March' in Poznan

'Homosexuality should be respected but not promoted' was the justification given by Ryszard Grobelny, the mayor of Poznan (western Poland), for the decision to ban the 'Equality March' scheduled to be held in the city on 19 November, UNESCO's International Day of Tolerance. The decision was backed by the regional authorities and is doubtless in line with the new political trend in Poland.

However, the organisers did not cancel the parade. Dozens of people were arrested during the march on 19 November. The police intervened as soon as it began and they arrested and questioned not only a number of activists, but also various opponents of the gay pride march, who had gathered together to protest against it. 'Stop homophobia!' and 'Freedom of speech!' were only two of the slogans shouted by the participants, who were backed by human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, which denounces human rights violations.

Does not the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, consider that the Polish authorities have infringed Articles 10 (freedom of expression) and 11 (freedom of assembly and freedom of association) of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as Articles 10 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and 11 (freedom of expression and information) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, proclaimed in Nice?

What steps will the Commission take to fully guarantee freedom of expression in Poland?