

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3402/07

by Donata Gottardi (PSE), Giusto Catania (GUE/NGL), Guido Sacconi (PSE), Luisa Morgantini (GUE/NGL), Vittorio Agnoletto (GUE/NGL), Sepp Kusstatscher (Verts/ALE), Roberto Musacchio (GUE/NGL), Giovanni Berlinguer (PSE), Claudio Fava (PSE), Gianni Pittella (PSE), Pia Elda Locatelli (PSE), Luigi Cocilovo (ALDE), Donato Tommaso Veraldi (ALDE), Pier Antonio Panzeri (PSE), Alfonso Andria (ALDE), Nicola Zingaretti (PSE), Gianluca Susta (ALDE), Umberto Guidoni (GUE/NGL), Paolo Costa (ALDE), Andrea Losco (ALDE), Mauro Zani (PSE), Monica Frassoni (Verts/ALE), Luciana Sbarbati (ALDE), Patrizia Toia (ALDE), Vincenzo Lavarra (PSE) and Pasqualina Napoletano (PSE) to the Commission

Subject: Roma camp at Boscomantico (Verona)

Verona City Council (which took office after the 27-28 May 2007 elections under the leadership of the mayor, Mr Tosi) has stated that one of its priorities is to clear by force the Roma camp at Boscomantico, on the city's edge.

For a number of years now the camp has been at the heart of an integration project intended in particular to ensure that the children attend school and that the adults enter mainstream society. The project is bearing fruit and it is achieving the objectives stated in Community directives and European Parliament resolutions on non-discrimination and on social inclusion.

Does the Commission not think that, by virtue of their nature, multi-annual social-integration projects should - once they have been adopted by a city council - remain in operation until they achieve a positive result?

Does the Commission not think that local authorities should abide by and implement the resolution adopted by the Council of Education Ministers on 22 May 1989, in which the Member States are called upon to take comprehensive, structural action in order to ensure that the children of gypsies and travellers are able to attend school - action based on the provision of structures, on consultation and on coordination? Does it not think that the forced clearance of the Roma camp infringes the children's right to an education and hence the principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights?

Does the Commission not consider social mainstreaming, integration at local level and the provision of education for Roma children to be a positive way of implementing the principle of non-discrimination against minorities and of combating social exclusion and threats to safety?

Does the Commission not agree that racial discrimination and xenophobia against Roma (especially on the part of the public authorities) constitute a factor which may destabilise security and peaceful social co-existence?

Does the Commission not consider that courses of action such as those which are about to be taken by Verona City Council are even more serious from the symbolic point of view, given that they are to be taken during the European Year of Equal Opportunities?