

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3760/08
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: INDAP property sales

In 2002, taking advantage of a law on property sales, 124 families decided to purchase their own homes at Via Montecassiano 78, Rome, belonging to INDAP (the Italian national welfare institute for public authority employees). At the time of the sale, the property had certain defects, but the seller maintained that these were minor. After the purchase was finalised, the owners discovered that it had been decided at a prior meeting of INDAP's governing board to issue a precautionary order to evacuate the apartments in question following a structural inspection of the property - something of which the future owners were not informed at the time of sale. It has therefore emerged that at the time of a property sale, a public body wilfully concealed the fact that there were serious structural problems affecting that property. After a complaint was lodged, INDAP even went so far as to sue the new owners for damaging its image.

1. Will the Commission request the Italian Government to shed light on these events?
2. Does it not view these events as giving grounds to declare a failure to respect Community regulations on consumer protection, such as Directives 98/27/EC¹ and 2005/27/EC², etc.?
3. Does it not consider these events to warrant the purchasers of the property bringing an action before the European Court of Justice?

¹ OJ L 166, 11.6.1998, p. 51.

² OJ L 149, 11.6.2005, p. 22.