

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3857/08

by Pasqualina Napoletano (PSE), Roberto Musacchio (GUE/NGL), Lilli Gruber (PSE) and Donata Gottardi (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Restrictions on religious freedom in the municipality of Treviso

On 25 April and 13 June 2008, Treviso municipal council broke up, imposing fines and public order measures, peaceful protests by believers in Islam who, for want of any other appropriate site in which to practice their religion, and with the prior agreement of the local authorities, had gathered near car parks and other areas of little hindrance to local traffic.

Does the Commission not consider the measures adopted by the municipality of Treviso to clearly conflict with the letter and spirit of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and in particular with the principle of freedom of religion and expression?

What action will the Commission take vis-à-vis the Treviso municipal authorities and the Italian Government to ensure that European legislation is fully respected and that genuine and effective freedom of worship is guaranteed?

Does it not feel that actions such as those taken by Treviso municipal council are made all the more serious, in political and symbolic terms, by the fact that this is the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue?