

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4167/08

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to the Council

Subject: Measures to encourage and promote police cooperation between EU Member States

Recently public attention in the EU Member States has been drawn to the adoption of legislation in Italy seeking to deal with emergency situations caused by nomad encampments in the areas of Naples, Rome and Milan.

The Italian authorities have justified these measures by indicating that they are intended to combat crime.

Given the cross-border nature of the criminal activities concerned, we consider that the Italian authorities should step up cooperation between their own police forces with those of the Member States whose citizens are involved in such criminal activities on Italian territory.

What action does the Council intend to take to encourage cooperation between European Union Member State police authorities with a view to resolving such situations which are undermining public security, culminating in outbursts of intolerance and xenophobia? What measures are being envisaged by the Council to ensure appropriate action and compliance with the rights and freedoms embodied in Community law in dealing with such situations in future?