

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5791/08
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Award of contracts in Palermo

In Italy, the financing of public residential construction work is a problem which, alarmingly, appears to remain unresolved. There are frequent cases of fraudulent management of public funds, bogus contract award lists and contracts awarded to companies with mafia links, making life increasingly difficult for families for whom housing is still a dramatic problem.

A case which occurred recently in Palermo illustrates how serious the situation is. It would appear that public procurement procedures in Palermo are run not by the public authorities but by companies and banks potentially involved in the building work. The Palermo municipal council guarantees the transparency of public procurement procedures, but there are still doubts about the conduct of restoration work in the historic town centre.

1. Is the Commission aware of the implementing arrangements for public procurement directives in Italy?
2. What instruments are available to the Commission to ensure that such Community rules are properly applied in the various Member States and, in this particular case, in Italy?
3. Does the Commission intend to ask the Italian Government for guarantees as regards the proper application of public procurement standards, should it be established that there have been patent violations of such rules?