

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2109/09
by Patrizia Toia (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Bacula Bridge - Milan municipality

The Milan municipal authorities have expressed their intention to request the eviction of a Roma community – consisting mostly of women and children – which is occupying the area around the Bacula Bridge; this community was already evicted from the area of Bovisasca a year and a half ago. The eviction was announced by the municipal authorities, which failed to propose alternative, mutually agreeable solutions which respected fundamental human rights, but put forward the sole proposal to separate the family unit, definitively rather than temporarily.

This solution is not acceptable to the Roma community and increasingly appears to be an excuse on the part of the city administration. The authorities, which have on many occasions been pressed by the voluntary organisations and associations which monitor and assist the women, children and families, continually fail to ensure respect for children's rights, the right to education and basic health care. Taking account of the fact that most of these nomadic people have EU citizenship,

1. does the Commission not consider that this measure is in breach of:
 - the right to privacy and to respect for home and family life, as enshrined in Articles 7 and 33 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Article 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 - a child's right to education, enshrined in Article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - the right to health, enshrined in Article 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
2. How does the Commission intend to make representations to the Municipality of Milan in relation to their failure to take responsibility in proposing alternative solutions to eviction, and to the Italian authorities in order to clarify this situation?