

**Question for written answer E-012674/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Emine Bozkurt (S&D) and Malika Benarab-Attou (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Hate crimes in Florence

On Tuesday 13 December, a gunman, a known sympathiser of the extreme right, went on a shooting spree in Florence. He killed two Senegalese street vendors and wounded three others before killing himself. The shooting spree was said to be racially motivated, since the gunman only aimed at the African descent vendors on the street.

Moreover, in the same week a Roma camp was burned down by a mob, also in Italy. In Germany last November it came to light that there have been systematic killings of citizens due to their Turkish descent by extreme rightists, and in July we witnessed the murderous attacks in Norway.

The European Union has laws that ban discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and race, such as the EU Racial Equality Directive and the EU Fundamental Rights Charter, to ensure that citizens are equal and that their rights will be equally safeguarded. Their rights need to be respected, and the governments of the EU bound by these laws have to take all necessary actions to safeguard citizens' rights and combat all forms of racial and ethnic discrimination for all citizens alike.

What specific action is the Commission going to take to make clear that racial discrimination and violence are utterly unacceptable in Europe and that hate crimes must be prevented by all possible means?