

**Question for written answer E-001316/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Aldo Patriciello (PPE)

Subject: Prisons Decree (Italy)

Considering

- that the European Court of Human Rights has accused Italy of violating Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights which forbids torture or inhumane or degrading treatment, because of the conditions which exist in Italian prisons;
- that, on 17 December 2013, the cabinet passed the Decree on Urgent Measures for the Protection of Basic Rights of Detainees and Controlled Reduction of the Prison Population and that, on 6 February, the Government won the vote by 296 to 183, pending decision by the Senate;
- that the purposes of the Decree are selective reduction of the number of people in prison and improvement in the quality of life of detainees; guaranteeing respect for human rights and acceptable living conditions;
- that the Decree breaks down into eight points providing as follows: offenders to be placed under supervision of a social worker for sentences not exceeding four years; early release following assessment of merit; home detention with electronic tag for sentences not exceeding 18 months; extension to more immigrant deportation camps; institution of a guarantor to monitor respect for human rights in prisons, identification and deportation centres and police stations; set-up of new institutions to which detainees can turn to assert their rights; and, finally, treatment orders for detainees who are addicted to drugs and for petty drug dealing offences;
- and that some prisons are structurally inadequate because they are dilapidated, cramped and lack efficient health services and sanitation, obliging detainees to live in unsettled conditions;

can the Commission state whether its 2014-2020 planning includes European funding to be spent on prison upgrading and reorganisation of the activities and spaces at detainees' disposal, to ensure conformity to the European Prison Rules proposed by the Committee of Ministers in Recommendation Rec(2006)2?