Question for oral answer O-000237/2011 to the Commission

**Rule 115** 

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Subject: Roma rights in the EU - tackling anti-Gypsyism

The EU Framework for National Roma Strategies was presented in April 2011, welcomed in Council Conclusions in May and endorsed by the European Council on 24 June. Member States are to develop national Roma integration strategies in parallel with the EU 2020 objectives and submit these to the Commission by the end of 2011. Although the EU Framework for National Roma Strategies is the most advanced document produced by the European Commission concerning improving the socio—economic inclusion of the 10-12 million European Roma, it lacks anti-discrimination targets and measures against anti-Gypsyism, which are needed now more than ever. We continue to witness growing anti-Roma sentiment (Anti-Gypsyism) and increased levels of physical violence directed towards the Roma, as has recently happened in a number of EU Member States. Racist groups, football fans, neo-nazi and far right groups are very often identified as perpetrators of racist attacks against Roma and their neighbourhoods.

Given the above facts, what measures is the Commission taking to defend the rights and freedoms of Roma as European citizens? What steps have been taken by the Commission to pressure governments to act sufficiently against any form of violence against Roma and with respect for the rule of law when Roma appear as victims? What is the Commission doing to facilitate the EU Member States in the process of developing their own national Roma strategies? What value does the Commission place on the views of the Roma when it comes to Roma-related policies, as we note that Roma participation and representation at EU Platform meetings is scarce? What action has been taken to overcome traces of anti-Roma policies such as those of continuous expulsions of Roma? What action will the Commission be taking before July 2014 regarding Roma rights?

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