

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6786/08  
by Giusto Catania (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: The case of Fatma Tmar

News agencies have reported that, in Palermo, a 48 year-old Tunisian women who has been resident in Italy for 30 years, is married to an Italian national and is the mother of a 21 year-old girl, born in Palermo, has been excluded from a competitive examination for 250 posts as cultural and tourism services assistant because she does not have Italian citizenship.

Fatma Tmar has for some time now been working in the Palermo tourist ticket office, knows four languages and, thanks to her knowledge of Arabic, has worked as an interpreter for that Sicilian municipality on an occasional basis.

Her many years' experience in the field of tourism and her in-depth knowledge of some four languages were not enough, however, to allow her to at last secure a permanent post by taking part in the competition that would have enabled her to free herself of her precarious employment contract.

Does the Commission not consider that discrimination of this type breaches the relevant rules on the equal treatment of long-term residents in the field of work and access to employment, within the meaning of Directive 2003/109/EC<sup>1</sup>?

Could the Commission request the Italian authorities to clarify this situation?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 16, 23.1.2004, p. 44.