

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1489/09
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to the Commission

Subject: Emergency public security measures in Italy

Following the Decree of 20 February 2009, the Italian Council of Ministers is to adopt emergency public security measures (in particular to combat sexual violence).

Given that this decree's proposal coincides with such recent events as:

- setting up a fingerprint database in Italy for Roma people,
- excessive publicity given to crimes committed in Italy by Romanian citizens,
- the wave of xenophobia and violence against Romanian residents in Italy,
- and despite the statement by Minister Roberto Maroni, reiterating that no measures had been taken in response to emotive events,

we are greatly concerned at the tense atmosphere in Italian-Romanian relations and by the impact of the measures advocated by the Italian Council of Ministers.

What is the Commission's position on the legality of the status of the 'volunteer security agents' who, according to this decree, will have the right to patrol the region to prevent crime? As the decree provides only a vague description of the responsibilities of these 'volunteer security agents', might an organisation of this kind not represent a danger to society at present?

Moreover, given the measures of the first 'security package' adopted in October 2007 in relation to expulsion, and the fact that the media refer to Romanian citizens living in Italy as 'immigrants', what does the Commission intend to do to ensure that Romanian citizens are not regarded as 'illegal immigrants' and subjected to the provisions on the status of illegal immigrants as proposed by the Decree of 20 February 2009?

In the context of Directive 2004/38/EC¹, does the Commission intend to make available to the Member States a system for uniform interpretation of the terms used in the Directive: 'public policy', 'public security', 'public health' and 'sufficient resources'?

Can the Commission make sure that 'the fight against crime thanks to very strict and well-defined rules' (Maroni) is not undermining the social life of EU citizens, including Romanian citizens, who exercise their right of free movement to enter the territory of Italy and who live and work in Italy, contributing to its level of economic and social development?

¹ OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77