

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1891/09  
by Dragoş Florin David (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:            Respect for the principle of non-discrimination

Last year, unfounded accusations were made by certain politicians and reported in an inflammatory manner by the Italian media, and Romanian citizens resident in Italy were the targets of racist and xenophobic acts. Compare this with the statistics presented by *Corriere della Sera*, which emphasise the fact that, of the approximately one million Romanians resident in Italy, around 2 700 (or 0.27%) have committed crimes. In the light of the rights of European citizens laid down in the Treaty of Maastricht and the Treaty of Amsterdam, in European Council Decision 2008/913/JHA<sup>1</sup> on combating racism and xenophobia and in Directive 2000/43/EC<sup>2</sup>, I call on the European Commission to conduct a careful and apposite assessment of the acts targeting Romanian citizens in Italy.

In the same connection, I strongly censure criminal offences perpetrated by any European citizen within the borders of any other country, and call for a more effective control of criminality by the relevant institutions in each Member State and at EU level, in order to ensure genuine security for the European public.

In the current situation, where EU Member States are increasingly feeling the impact of the economic crisis, particular attention should be awarded to preventing potential social unrest that will find an outlet in racist and xenophobic attacks.

Can the Commission therefore state whether it has devised a short- and medium-term strategy for preventing social unrest and what measures it can take in cases such as this where the rights of European citizens have been violated?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22.