

**Question for written answer P-7495/2010  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Harlem Désir (S&D)**

Subject: Infringement proceedings against France for its treatment of Roma

On 5 August 2010, in France, the Minister for the Interior sent a memo to regional police chiefs on the removal of illegal camps, explicitly and repeatedly targeting Roma camps 'as a priority'.

As the Commission itself has pointed out, no category of people in the European Union may be targeted by measures involving repression or expulsion on the basis of their ethnic origin or nationality.

Under Directive 2004/38/EC<sup>1</sup>, the expulsion of EU citizens for public order offences or on any other grounds can be justified only on a case-by-case basis, on the evidence of individual behaviour and not because a person belongs to an ethnic or national group.

The French Interior Minister's memo of 5 August 2010 therefore constitutes a serious breach of several basic principles of the EU Treaties, EU law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, notably the principle of non-discrimination.

Since France has deliberately failed to meet its obligations under the Treaties, I would ask the Commission and its President, José Manuel Barroso, to do their duty by taking infringement proceedings against France in order to halt the shameful treatment and unacceptable stigmatisation of European citizens, namely the Roma.

Can the Commission indicate when it will initiate the infringement proceedings and, as a first step, deliver a reasoned opinion, in accordance with Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, calling on the French Government to withdraw the memo immediately? Does the Commission also intend to refer the matter – as it is entitled to do – to the Court of Justice of the European Union?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77.