



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for **Europe**  
Alliance des Démocrates et des Libéraux pour l'**Europe**

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## Press Release

PRESS & INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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### **Roma in Italy: Extraordinary measures are unjustified. EPP deft to appeals from civil society**

Following a debate requested by the Alliance of the Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), today the European Parliament adopted a resolution "urging the Italian Government to refrain from proceeding to the collection of fingerprints of the members of the Roma minority and from the use of fingerprints already collected, awaiting the forthcoming announced evaluation by the European Commission of the measures envisaged".

**Viktória Mohácsi** (SZDSZ/Hungary) "As member of the European Romani community I am seriously concerned and flabbergasted by the Italian Government's decree which aims at collecting personal and sensitive data, such as ethnicity, religion, educational qualification, fingerprints and photos of all the members of Roma minority, including children.

If the European Commission was to endorse these measures and argue for their conformity with EU treaties, human rights and anti-discrimination measures, then this data collection could happen also in my country, with my children as well".

"The dramatic situation of the Roma community in Italy is a long standing problem not a sudden emergency which can justify the adoption of extraordinary measures. Whenever a country plans to declare the emergency state in such a case, it should first of all to inform and alert the Council of Europe", pointed out **Marco Cappato** (Radicals/Italy) who added: "In fact, the real emergency existing in Italy is due to the endemic lack of democracy and legality as proven by the fact that Italy has the highest number of condemnations by the European Court of Human Rights.

It is a shame that having to choose between defending Berlusconi or the EU citizens and set of values, the European People's Party have opted for the former turning their back to a number of appeals coming from civil society, NGOs and religious authorities", concluded Cappato.

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