



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

Director General

Brussels, 09 July 2008
JLS/JF D(2008) 10947

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2008, in reply to Vice-President Barrot's letter of 3 July, concerning initiatives adopted by the Italian government in respect of "nomadic settlements" in some areas in Italy.

Vice-President Barrot had a useful meeting with Minister Maroni in Cannes on 7 July, during which he appreciated the Minister's frank explanations.

As a follow-up to that meeting, I should be grateful if you would provide in writing, in advance of the Minister's report referred to below, detailed information on a number of issues that were discussed.

1. Identification of religion and ethnic origin: the case reported in the Naples region where this information was included in a form was an isolated incident which will not be repeated. This has been made clear to the prefects/special commissioners concerned.
2. Description of the process of taking fingerprints, detailing:
 - the purposes for which fingerprints are collected and processed;
 - the legal basis authorising the processing of this category of personal data;
 - whether fingerprints are stored (including in paper form) and how data are held by public authorities; the conservation periods of personal data, and whether the personal data collected may be used for further purposes other than the one for which the personal data have been collected and description of the legal basis for this further use;
 - whether there is written information to individuals prior to the collection of personal data, and whether individuals have the right of access and correction of their personal data.
3. Fingerprints are taken from minors under 14 years of age only when specifically authorised by a judge and for the purpose of establishing identity.

HE Mr Ferdinando Nelli Feroci
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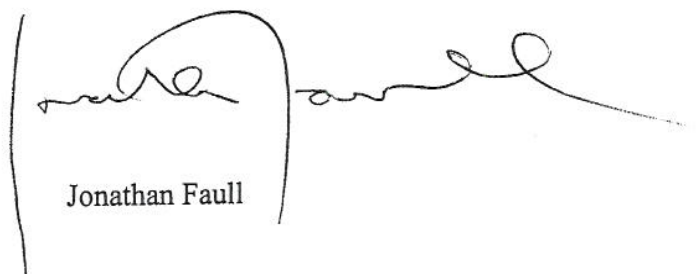
4. The situation in the 17 regions of Italy that are not affected by the declaration of the state of emergency, namely if the Prefects in those regions have received the order to proceed with the identification of people living in "nomadic settlements".

I understand that the *Garante per la protezione dei dati personali* is being consulted for data protection related aspects.

I also understand that the Minister will send Vice-President Barrot a full report on the application of the Italian measures by the end of this month, including copies of any relevant legislative and administrative decision, act or measure, as requested in Vice-President's Barrot letter and in this letter.

I am grateful for the Italian authorities' cooperation in this matter at all levels.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Faull