

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority Written Question (Rule 117 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>
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SUBJECT: (please specify) Persecutions, evictions and expulsions of Roma in the EU	
<p>TEXT:</p> <p>While the EU is discussing about an "EU framework for national Roma integration strategies", NGOs and human rights bodies denounce the persistence of persecutions, evictions and expulsions of Roma in EU Member States. In Hungary, the Minority Ombudsman has denounced the deterioration of the situation of Roma and the "systematic demolition" of the minority rights acquis (1), while Amnesty International reported that following an anti-Roma march by the far-right Jobbik party in the village of Gyöngyöspata on 6 March, up to 200 vigilantes from 3 groups have stayed in the village harassing and verbally abusing local Roma residents, shouting outside their houses, making verbal death threats, carrying weapons, whips and axes while marching on the streets in military outfits. Activists witnessed these acts and denounced the lack of action by the police (2). Amnesty International also denounced the failure of the so-called "Nomad Plan" in Italy - which had the only effect of driving Roma deeper into poverty, segregation and marginalization - and called authorities to stop forced evictions and provide adequate housing for Roma families, who have been overcrowded in already available camps, to bring it in line with international law and standards and to provide adequate alternative housing. Following the expulsion from France of Roma, the Commission had made strong declarations and announced proceedings in relation to free movement, which was subsequently abandoned after French authorities engaged to amend the law implementing the directive, and in relation to anti-discrimination, which continued to be under the examination of the Commission services.</p> <p>Is the Commission aware of these facts? What will it do to ensure the Hungarian authorities take appropriate legal and concrete measures to protect Roma and minority rights, investigate racist acts and bring perpetrators to justice? What will it do to ensure that Italian authorities stop forced evictions and provide appropriate housing? Can it illustrate the situation in relation to the actions and enquiries carried out or in process on expulsions by France of Roma? Will these issues be addressed in the upcoming Commission EU framework strategy, so that fundamental rights of Roma are concretely protected?</p> <p>(1) http://www.kisebbsegiombudsman.hu/hir-593-statement-on-the-preservation-of.html (2) http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR27/005/2011/en/57f69249-6244-4252-843f-8a155c710e62/eur270052011en.html (3) http://www.fightdiscrimination.eu/news-and-events/italy-stop-forced-evictions-and-provide-adequate-alternative-housing-roma-families-r</p>	
Signature(s):	Date: 23.03.2011