

Viviane Reding

Vice-President of the European Commission
Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights & Citizenship

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



European Institutions Office

Our Ref: B1236

Brussels, 20 July 2012

Dear Mrs. Reding

**REQUEST TO TRIGGER INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURE AGAINST ITALY FOR BREACHING RACE
EQUALITY DIRECTIVE**

We should like to draw your attention to continuing discrimination against Romani people regarding their right to adequate housing and related rights which is currently occurring in Italy. Segregating their housing and forcibly evicting them from their settlements is a serious breach of the Race Equality Directive (2000/43/EC).

We therefore urge you to launch an infringement procedure against the Italian Government.

Discrimination against Roma in Italy and other EU member states is systematically depriving its victims of access to housing, education, health and employment and is thus having a severe impact on the life of the individual. The infringement procedure is an effective tool by which the Commission can ensure member states call a halt to human rights violations, falling under the Race Equality Directive.

In the attached submission you will find evidence of breaches of Articles 2 and 3(1) (h) of the Race Equality Directive by the Italian Government:

- (a) Denial of adequate safeguards and protection against forced eviction
- (b) Perpetuation of segregation and sub-standard housing
- (c) Lack of access and loss of entitlement to social housing

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nicolas J Beger
Director

Cc:

László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Dana Trama-Zada, Cabinet Commissioner Reding

Aurel Ciobanu – Dordea, DG Justice, Director Equality

Paul Nemitz, DG Justice, Director Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

Andreas Stein, DG Justice, Head of Unit, Equal Treatment Legislation

Lina Papamichalopoulou, DG Justice, Head of Unit, Non-discrimination policies and Roma coordination