

Ms. Salla Saastamoinen
Director Equality, DG Justice

European Commission
1049 Brussels

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

6 June 2014

Ref: B1589

**FOLLOW UP ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S COMPLAINT OF 20 JULY 2012
ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMA IN ITALY**

Dear Ms. Saastamoinen,

We would like to follow up on a complaint that Amnesty International submitted to the European Commission on 20 July 2012.¹ In its complaint, Amnesty International argued that the discriminatory treatment suffered by Romani people in Italy with regard to adequate housing and related rights constituted a breach of the European Union (EU)'s Race Equality Directive (2000/43/EC). Amnesty International therefore called on the European Commission to start infringement proceedings against Italy. In support of its complaint, Amnesty International enclosed detailed submissions providing evidence of breaches of Articles 2 and 3(1)(h) of the Race Equality Directive by the Italian Government.²

The European Commission replied on 24 August 2012, stating that: "[t]he services of the European Commission [were] currently examining [Amnesty International's] letter and related reports, as well as recent reports of other NGOs on the same issue. The European Commission intend[ed] to contact the Italian authorities to seek their views on this matter. It will then look into the compatibility of the present situation with the Race Equality Directive".³

Amnesty International would like to request clarification on the progress of these investigations pursuant to the European Commission's *Communication on the handling of relations with the complainant in respect of the application of Union law*,⁴ and in our capacity as interested parties/complainants based on our submissions to the European Commission in July 2012. In particular, we would like to learn more about the status of EU Pilot proceedings which have been initiated (no. 3945/12/JUST):

- 1) Has the European Commission decided whether or not to close the EU Pilot proceedings?
- 2) Will the European Commission launch infringement proceedings against Italy or has it already done so?
- 3) If the European Commission has decided not to launch infringement proceedings, on what grounds has this decision been made?

We look forward to receiving your response to the issues raised in this letter. We thank you for your attention and stand ready to provide any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Ivorna McGowan
Director of Programmes
Amnesty International European Institutions Office

¹ Our reference: B1236.

² Amnesty International's submissions to the Commission are available at:
<http://www.amnesty.org/fr/library/info/EUR30/011/2012/en>.

³ Reference: Ares(2012)998640.

⁴ COM(2012) 154 final, in particular points 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10.