



**The Greens | European Free Alliance**  
in the European Parliament

Brussels, 16 September 2010

For the attention of the President of the European Union Mr Van Rompuy and the Belgian Presidency

Dear President of the European Union,  
Dear representatives of the Belgian Presidency,

We are very concerned about the continuing policy of discrimination against the Roma and expulsions of Roma people in France.

During its last plenary session, on 9 September 2010, the European Parliament adopted a strong resolution underlining its concerns about the Roma deportations in France and the need for a response from the European Commission. On 14 September 2010, Commissioner Reding criticised the situation in France and stated that the Commission will have no choice but to initiate legal action against France, including:

- an infringement procedure against France for failure to respect the Free Movement Directive and its provisions on discrimination; and
- an infringement procedure against France for lack of transposition of the procedural and substantive guarantees under the Free Movement Directive.

We fully support her statement that no Member State can expect special treatment, especially not when fundamental values and European laws are violated.

The European Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, has an obligation to investigate and act upon allegations regarding such violations, and especially when there is factual evidence that any member state is in breach of European laws. To this end it should investigate the situation of the Roma in all member states.

We are concerned about the pressure that the French government is putting on member states to undermine the role of the Commission, in order to avoid the consequences of its actions regarding Roma.

We urge you to guarantee the independence of the Commission and not let one government endanger the authority of the Union's institutions, and disregard the fundamental rights set out in the Treaties, which all member states and governments are bound to respect.

Sincerely,

Daniel Cohn-Bendit  
Co-President

Rebecca Harms  
Co-President