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Budapest, 21 November 2014.

Dear Excellencies,

The undersigned organisations (Associazione 21 Luglio, European Roma Rights Centre, OssevAzione) are writing to express concern regarding your earlier-stated plans to evict the Romani community currently residing in the informal camps located in Cupa Perillo, and to re-locate 400 of them (approximately half of the population) first to yet unspecified temporary housing solutions, then to a yet-to-be-built, segregated camp.

We call on you not to build another segregated camp or place the Romani community into other form of segregated temporary housing, but instead seek to ensure their access to an integrated housing setting.

According to prior information, the municipality of Scampia, Naples planned to use approximately €7 million from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to finance the construction of a new camp in Cupa Perillo, where the 400 people would be placed. The local authorities failed to clarify what would happen with the other 400 Roma after the planned eviction of their current camp. In August this year, the Romani community was warned by local officials that they would be evicted by the end of the year, and would be placed into some form of temporary housing.

The undersigned organisations wrote to the European Commission to protest against the planned eviction and the building of another segregated camp.

In its response, the European Commission made it clear that “the project [...] would not seem in line with the objectives of the ERDF”. They stressed that the use of funds should “not contribute to segregation, isolation and exclusion”, and that “housing investments have to be implemented as part of an integrated approach”. The Commission then came to the conclusion that the planned project of the municipality of Scampia seems to violate these principles, and thus in this form cannot be financed from ERDF resources.

In addition, we would like to bring to your attention that the proposed segregated camp would be contrary to legislative decree 9/7/2003 n. 215, which transposes EU Directive 2000/43/CE, and it would be contrary to the decision of the Supreme Court of Cassation of 26 March 2013 and the decision No. 6050/2011 of the State Council of 16 November 2011 on the State of Emergency. It would also contravene the Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the member states (December 2013) of the Council of the European Union that urges member states to eliminate any spatial segregation.

Therefore we urge the municipality of Scampia to adhere to the requirements set by the EU and the national legal framework, and use ERDF resources to implement integrated housing complemented with integrating measures in education, employment, health care and social support. As it was made clear by the Commission, “the ERDF can in fact co-finance integrated housing interventions in favour of marginalised Roma communities”.

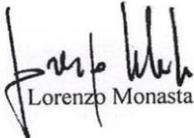
We strongly urge you not to build another segregated camp for the local Romani community. Instead we call on you to provide affordable housing to all 800 Roma in an integrated environment, and, additionally, to support the integrated housing with other integrating measures. We also urge you to make sure to conduct a proper consultation with the affected Romani community.

Please provide us with information about your next steps regarding the plight and the housing situation of the Romani community in Cupa Perillo. We would also be happy to discuss these matters in the form of a meeting.

Yours Sincerely,



Ujlaky András
European Roma Rights Centre


Lorenzo Monasta

Lorenzo Monasta
OsservAzione



Carlo Stasolla
Associazione 21 Luglio