



European Network Against Racism
Réseau européen contre le racisme
Europäisches Netz gegen Rassismus

PRESS RELEASE

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ENAR welcomes Commissioner Reding's strong reaction to France's anti-Roma policies

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) welcomes the strong statement made today by Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner responsible for justice and fundamental rights, following the unearthing of a 'circular letter' from the French administration instructing local authorities to evict settlers from illegal traveller settlements, giving "priority to those of Roma". This letter blatantly contradicts previous assurances by members of the French government that specific ethnic groups had not been targeted in France.

ENAR President Mohammed Aziz said: "We are happy that the European Commission has now finally explicitly condemned the forcible expulsion of Roma by France. The policy of targeting a specific community promoted by French government at the highest level is unacceptable and the Commission is right to respond strongly to such a breach of the EU's fundamental rights. It shows that the European Union is committed to upholding fundamental rights and will not tolerate these rights being violated without sanctions."

ENAR also welcomes the European Commission's intention to launch an infringement procedure against France for discriminating against the Roma under free movement laws. We now urge them to take quick legal action against France but also against all other member states putting in place similar policies infringing minority rights.

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states and represents more than 700 NGOs spread around the European Union. ENAR aims to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to promote equality of treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals, and to link local/regional/national and European initiatives.

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