

**Question for written answer E-000331/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Arranged marriages in the Roma community

The phenomenon of arranged marriages is not a thing of the past and, according to data, is particularly prevalent among Roma communities.

In Italy, according to a Department of Public Security document from March 2023¹, crimes of 'coercion or inducement to marry' have risen since 2019, with almost 90% of such offences concerning women, a third of whom were minors.

A few years ago, research by the '21 July Association' among communities living in particularly degrading conditions – such as the shantytowns on the outskirts of Rome, where the majority of residents are Roma people – found very high rates of (often forced) underage marriages, exceeding 75% in some places.

This problem was highlighted by the Council of Europe in its report '*Diritti umani di rom, sinti e popolazioni viaggianti in Europa*'² (Human rights of Roma, Sinti and Traveller populations in Europe), which notes the existence of this practice, mainly affecting girls, in several Roma communities.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. What it will do to address this problem?
2. Whether the funds provided for the integration of Roma communities, which amounted to EUR 21 billion over 2014-2020, been used to combat this practice?

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¹ https://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/2023-04/elaborato_costr_o_induz_marzo_23.pdf

² <https://rm.coe.int/diritti-umani-di-rom-sinti-e-popolazioni-viaggianti-in-europa-estratti/16807971ff>