

**Question for written answer P-004969/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Aldo Patriciello (PPE)**

Subject: Discrimination: the Cesare Lombroso museum in Italy

The Cesare Lombroso Museum of Criminal Anthropology was opened in Turin on 27 November 2009. It presents the work, studies and ideas of this 19th century positivist doctor, a proponent of 'scientific racism', which, by analysing the skulls of the dead, sought to demonstrate that some people were born criminal, in other words, that they had a predisposition to commit crimes due to their physiognomy and anthropomorphic features.

The contents of the museum (more than 900 skulls) possess no scientific, historical or religious value: to all intents and purposes, they are nothing more than a macabre exhibition of human remains. Lombroso's theories not only provided a significant ideological basis for the aberrant racist conduct witnessed in the last century but also served as a justification for slander and calumny against the people of southern Italy. The museum has angered thousands of people, and there have been calls for its closure from numerous towns in Italy where the local council has adopted a formal decision on the matter. On 3 October 2012, the Court of Lamezia Terme issued an order at first instance requiring the museum to return the remains of Giuseppe Vilella, which had been on display to visitors, to his home locality. The Lisbon Treaty sets forth the principle of equality and non-discrimination as a fundamental value of the European Union.

1. Does the Commission consider that the opening of the museum constitutes an expression of support for forms of intolerance, violence and racism which are absolutely incompatible with the fundamental values and principles that underpin the European Union?
2. Will the Commission contact the Italian Government to ask it to act on the matter and to take all possible effective measures to ensure respect for the principles of non-discrimination and equality?