



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS



17.04.09

Interview with UN's business and human rights envoy

The UN's top expert on business and human rights, Harvard Professor John Ruggie, was in Parliament on Thursday for a hearing which looked at improving business ethics. He was asked about the economic crises and how EU companies should act in the developing world or in places where human rights abuses take place. He said the area of business and human rights was 'very fluid' and the EU needs to work hard to catch up with the debate. He also warned against unsustainable 'over-eager philanthropy'.

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Network forging Euros dismantled in Poland

Europol (European Police Office) has announced, on Thursday 16 April, that it had dismantled a large network in Poland that was producing false €50 and €100 notes into the EU. A total of 32 people have been questioned in the Europol coordinated operation. Polish citizens and Romanian nationals were involved. The group was mainly producing forged notes for France, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. Several tens of thousands of notes may have been forged in this way. Around 300 police and anti-terrorist unit officers took part in the operation. The police, however, were unable to locate the printers where the false notes were produced. This is thought not to be in Poland and in another EU



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country.

Source: Agence Europe

Commission takes measures to prevent discrimination against Romanians in Italy

On Tuesday 14 April, the European Commission affirmed that it had taken "several measures" to ensure that all Union citizens, *including Romanian nationals*, benefited from all rights guaranteed under Community legislation. This was the response provided by European Commissioner for Justice Jacques Barrot, to several Romanian socialist parliamentarians who had sent a written question to the Commission in February requesting information about its plans to prevent discrimination against Romanians in Italy. On 10 December 2008, the Commission adopted a report on implementation of directive 2004/38/EC on the free movement of EU citizens. In his letter, Mr Barrot points out that this report indicates what measures ought to be taken by member states to correctly transpose the directive. Following a request from the Commission, the Italian government published guidelines to ensure that identification of people living in the traveller camps respected European data protection standards. The vice president then sent a letter to the Italian authorities explaining that these guidelines do not authorise the collation of data on the basis of ethnicity or religious denomination or the unrestricted taking of finger prints. On 25 February, the Commission received a report from the Italian authorities on identification action and the collation of data in camps on the outskirts of Rome. The Commissioner affirmed that this report is currently being examined by the Commission. Mr Barrot pointed out that in connection with the security package originally proposed by the Italian government and after comments by the Commission, a draft decree amending Italian legislation transposing directive 2004/38 was withdrawn by the Italian authorities. With regard to the automatic expulsion of European citizens in aggravated circumstances involving illegal residency, the Italian parliament is currently reviewing the amendments that may help legislation to respect Community law. Mr Barrot concluded that "the Commission will ensure that the legislation adopted by member states does not impair the rights Community law confers upon European citizens, including the right of residence, and the right to freedom of movement as foreseen in directive 2004/38 as well as fundamental freedoms."



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Source: Agence Europe