



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Fact-Finding Mission ROSARNO and ROME
15 - 17 February 2010

On 14 January, the Conference of Presidents decided to send an *ad hoc* fact finding mission to Rosarno, Italy, in the wake of recent incidents concerning migrant workers in that town. Following that decision the committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) sent a delegation of 12 Members to Rosarno, from 15 -17 February 2010, to prepare and contribute to its reflections, in particularly on the implementation of the sanctions Directive, the Directive on seasonal workers (forthcoming) and organised crime.

The delegation consisted of:

Mr Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D), Chairman of LIBE, Head of delegation

Ms Roberta ANGELILLI (PPE)

Mr Salvatore IACOLINO (PPE)

Mr Clemente MASTELLA (PPE)

Mr Nuno MELO (PPE)

Ms Silvia COSTA (S&D) (on 17 Feb)

Mr Mario PIRILLO (S&D)

Mr Gianni VATTIMO (ALDE)

Ms Hélène FLAUTRE (Verts/ALE)

Ms Cornelia ERNST (GUE/NGL)

Mr Mario BORGHEZIO (EFD)

Mr Andrew Henry William BRONS (NI)

Political groups¹, interpreters², staff³ and assistants⁴

Programme

The first part of the Programme consisted of meetings with regional and local authorities.

Monday 15 February, Reggio Calabria

Meeting with the President of the Region of Calabria, Agazio Loiero

During this meeting the Members stressed the lack of social protection in favour of the migrant seasonal workers - more than 1500 in the season. These young people, paid with ridiculous amounts of money, were living in some old factories or crumbling buildings. They come from Maghreb and other African areas, living without any hygienic services and occupying

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² Catherine Eve FOWLER, Maria FITZGIBBON, Caterina BALASSO, Benedetta TISSI, Laurent BERNHARD (Head of the team), Micheline QUINTELIER, Yves TYCHON, Irma SANTI

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areas no further than 700 meters from the Commune of Rosarno. They were invisible till the incident happened on January the 7th.

Meeting with local and regional authorities of Reggio Calabria

Prefetto di Reggio Calabria, **Mr Luigi VARRATTA**

Questore di Reggio Calabria, **Mr Carmelo CASABONA** at the meeting room of the Prefettura of Reggio Calabria

Prefetto di Reggio Calabria, Luigi Varrata

Since 1990, Rosarno and its surroundings have received each year around 1500 migrant workers, from October until April, to work in the citrus fruit harvest. The migrant workers live and work in inhumane conditions (they are exploited and live in old factories). After their work in Rosarno, the immigrants move on to work in other agricultural regions i.e. to Foggia in Puglia (tomatoes), Sicily (grapes) and Trentino (apples) according to the harvesting season.

A fraud involving EU funds emerged a few years ago (the so called “paper oranges and paper juices” scandals, with declared production on paper being 3/5/10 times more than in reality). As a result, the EU changed its funding criteria, which used to be based on harvest, to surface of production. Immigrants were no longer needed to ensure a minimum harvest and oranges were left on the trees⁵.

Incident in Rosarno, 7 January 2010

Rebellion broke out because a Togolese immigrant was shot from a moving car by somebody with a pellet rifle. After that around 300-400 migrants (wrongly informed that 4 migrants had been killed) blocked the national street, destroyed cars and shops, and a confrontation took place between the migrants and the local population of Rosarno; in the evening the situation was calm again. The next day (8 January) a counteraction by the local population took place and roadblocks were put up, people were frightened. 53 people were injured, 7 immigrants and 3 locals were arrested (the injuries were caused by sticks, stones and shots). The tension got stronger and a civic committee was set up to calm down the situation. This, however, turned out to be insufficient. After consultations with Minister MARONI, it was decided to put people in safe places by transferring them by buses to reception centres in Crotona and Bari. The authorities took this decision because they could not guarantee the safety of the immigrants. It appeared that 70 % of the transferred immigrants had a residence permit. Now, some hundreds of migrants have gone back to Rosarno and are hosted by friends. Local NGOs played a very important role with the migrants.

⁵ At almost all meetings the issue of the change in the EU funding and its consequences were raised (with the **Prefetto** and the **Questore**; with the Commissioner of **Rosarno**; with NGOs and agriculture organizations) to explain the impact on the local economy, the fact that this led to a drop in local production and prices, local people not willing to pay as much as before or at all migrants, or to pride them work. Until 2008, the EU paid 8/9.000 EUR to each farm on the basis of the quantity of fruits picked. After the discovery of the fraud the EU funding system was reformed and the funds allocated were 1.400/1.500/1.800 EUR on the basis of the surface area used. In the area of Rosarno there are around 30.000 farms, with an average of 4 hectares each; only 1.000 of them are large farms. The Commissioner of **Rosarno and the agriculture organizations** underlined that the price of oranges fell this year (from 15 cents to 5/6 cents) and that the funding system does not incentive production and economy, which has led to further social crisis in a context of “violence, criminality, and lack of legality culture”. There are 3.000 hectares of oranges camps. A plan to help agriculture reconversion is needed; many are leaving oranges to kiwis.

Questore di Reggio Calabria, Carmelo Casabona (Head of police)

Racism is a very strong word and sounds strange in relation to the people in Calabria. Calabria used to be an immigration country; people would come there to look for work. The incidents had more to do with fear than with racism. In the press the transferral of immigrants to reception centres was referred to as 'deportation', which has a dreadful connotation. It was not a deportation but an action to defuse the situation because the immigrants had devastated the city of Rosarno. But no military means were used, people were put on normal buses and they agreed to come. The authorities wanted to take the angle out. The intervention by the police was very professional. Only very few of the immigrants (72 on 748) were irregular. 5 immigrants were given a residence permit (because they helped in the judicial proceedings) and 11 got a residence permit for humanitarian reasons (because they were injured). Thanks to the investigations a gang was discovered (which is linked to the mafia) and 67 people were arrested (Police file dealing with the so called "Operazione Leone" is enclosed to this report).

Questions and observations of Members

Several questions and observations were put to the Prefetto and the Questore, including whether there had been other indications that something would happen and, if so, what was done about it? Also, Members inquired about the tensions resulting from the working conditions (very low wages/exploitation), and wondered whether action against the employers was considered. They also queried what had happened to the immigrants afterwards, and where were they now? Another Member wondered about the legal basis for seasonal work. Some Members of the delegation would refer to the incident as a racist one; however other Members of the delegation would rather call it a problem of exploitation. Questions were also raised on the impact of the change of the EU subsidy system (amounts paid went from 8000 EUR per farm to 1500 per farm). Also, a Member of the delegation stressed that an EU Directive on seasonal workers would help the people in Rosarno and that Commissioner Malmström was committed to present such a proposal.

In their responses, the Prefetto and the Questore recalled that the rebellion was triggered by the shooting incident. They believed that the shooting incident might have had an 'ordinary' reason that was not so much linked to racism, xenophobia or intolerance by the population but rather to fear or 'game'. They also stressed that it was probably not linked to involvement of the 'ndrangheta. After the incident 428 people were taken to reception centres in Crotona and 320 to Bari, 72 immigrants did not have a residence permit and they have been expelled. Those that were injured and/or cooperated in the judicial procedure were given a residence permit. The Judicial Authorities collected information on employers that exploited the immigrant workers. It will be assessed by the investigations whether the 'ndrangheta is involved.

They also said that there was a shooting incident about one year ago, that person was arrested and sentenced to prison for 18 years. They confirmed that no immigrant had a labour contract and that they were exploited. Integration was never a problem in Rosarno, the question is if there is work and what sort of work? On racism and the pictures that were sent out to the world they said that the situation should be seen in its entirety.

Tuesday 16 February Rosarno

Meeting with the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Municipality of Rosarno, Domenico BAGNATO, in the Municipality of Rosarno (the local council had to be dissolved due to its involvement with the mafia and on 20 December 2009, an interim governing body was put in place).

The Commissioner said that each year around 1500 non-EU immigrants are staying in the Rosarno area and that they move around Italy depending on the period of harvest. They stay there from November until March. They live in inhumane conditions. 700 of them live in two old buildings "la Rognetta" and a former factory "Oleificio Opera Sila" (San Ferdinando) and 400 in areas nearby Rosarno (Rizziconi) (controlled by the mafia). The local authorities tried to improve the living conditions by providing funding (EUR 50,000, used to install chemical toilets, "survivor kits" for migrants and also, to partially fund a canteen for migrants run by a 83 years old widow surnamed as "Mamma Africa") and Minister MARONI send EUR 200,000 that arrived in 2009 after the end of the fruit collection; Also, a vaccination programme was started (in which Médecins sans frontières (MSF) was involved). There were two specific projects, approved in December 2009 by the Ministry of the Interior, the demolishing of the factory and the creation of a centre for immigrants, to provide housing, estimated at EUR 930,000 and EUR 2 million and both were completed in December 2009. 2009 brought a lot of seasonal workers. Due to the agricultural crisis, a lot of immigrants did not find work. On the black market immigrants are paid 25 EUR per day for citrus harvest and they have to give EUR 1 or 2 per day to the "caporali" who manage the recruitment of daily work by farmers (the so called 'mafia tax'). At the same time the sales price of a kilogramme of oranges was very low (5 cent per kilo).

Questions and observations of Members

The Members of the delegation in their interventions addressed several issues, it was said that what happened in Rosarno could have happened anywhere else (i.e. Brussels, Paris or Sweden). It is a problem that concerns the EU and should therefore be taken from an EU perspective. A Member wondered how the rule of law was applied. Also, it was thought that Calabria suffered from a lack of wealth and economic difficulties and influence by the mafia. Another Member stressed that most immigrants were well integrated. Also, the impact of the change in the EU subsidy system was recalled. On the specific situation in Calabria, Members wanted to know who the employers were (black market), and what the interests could be that organised crime could have in this incident? There was also an intervention on the EU Directive on sanctions, which, once implemented, would give rights to victims of exploitation (implementation is due by June 2011). It was recalled that the employment crisis may lead to a social conflict. Others stressed the need for European legislation on seasonal workers.

In his reply Commissioner Bagnato said that generally speaking, migrants were well integrated, 400 of them are living permanently in the city of Rosarno, despite a number of Rosarno citizens that took part in the incidents. This was not the usual attitude of the local population towards the migrants. Why they did so should become clear after the investigations. He would not call it racism but rather a delinquent act. The local population insisted that the immigrants be taken away. Perhaps there was mafia involvement; however, the investigation of the incidents is lead by the Palmi Prosecution office (and not by the Calabria anti-mafia prosecution office). It is true that the mafia has a big influence in the region and affects the daily activities. Employers are

penalised. The mafia is a parasite in the social organisation. Violence stems from a culture of violence and the mafia benefits from social exclusion and social tension. Besides, there is the agricultural crisis. In Calabria you find oranges from Brazil, which are less expensive. At the same time, you have here the oranges at the trees! The farmers receive money for the oranges but the mafia exploits the situation. The black market is exploited by the mafia. The police tried to intervene to take action against the employers.

Afternoon, Lamezia, meeting with trade unions and associations and NGOs responsible for the fight against organised crime and immigrants,

First Session (THotel Lamezia):

Meeting with the trade unions

Mr Sergio GENCO (CGIL)

Mr Domenico Zannino replacing Mr Paolo TRAMONTI (CISL),

Mr Giuseppe MANGONE (UIL),

Mr Nicola CILENTO (Confagricoltori)

All representatives of the Trade Unions stressed that in the Rosarno area, every year in October arrive around 1500/2000 migrants for the citrus harvest. They live in very difficult and inhuman conditions, in collapsing buildings, without running water and toilets. There was a general call for more integration between migrants and locals.

The economic crisis has had an impact on migrants conditions as, this year, the price of oranges decreased (from 15 cents to 5/6 cents). Also, the change of the EU funding system, from a system based on quantity of the fruits picked to a system of surface area used, led to a decrease in funding (until 2008, the EU paid 8/9.000 EUR to each farm but after the discovery of the fraud the EU funding system was reformed and the funds allocated were 1.400/1.500/1.800 EUR). The economic local situation became worse because of this. The specific type of agricultural production was highlighted: 3.000 hectares of orange camps divided in small farms, often managed at family level. The lack of sufficient control on the labour market was strongly denounced.

According to the Trade Unions, despite the presence of the local mafia and a widespread attitude to illegality, until January 2010 the relations with the local inhabitants have been peaceful and incidents were rare. Only Mr Genco reported on incidents occurred in the past during which 3 nationals of Ivory Coast and one of Togo were shut. All speakers agreed on the fact that the local mafia ('ndrangheta) had a role in the incidents.

Trade Unions stressed the current Italian legislation on migration (so called *Bossi-Fini* law) linking residence to work with has as its consequence that once a migrant loses his job or is employed on the black market he/she will become an illegal immigrant.

According to **Mr. Mangone**, (UIL), there is no excuse for exploitation, and the problems in the agricultural sector are mainly fiscal issues. The farmers of today were migrants in the 50'ties. They have been waiting for a simplification of the legislation on seasonal workers concerning a format for contracts and hoping for a possible bilateral agreement for Calabria. The integration legislation and initiatives are insufficient and representatives on the spot are needed to control and support the migrants. New projects are needed to focus specifically on the sector and to look at regularisation.

Mr Zannino, (CISL), insisted that Calabria, from the economic point of view, is still underdeveloped and needed special attention by the Italian government and by the EU in view of financial help and infrastructural development. Unemployment in Calabria has reached 13% and the black market 25%.

Mr Genco, (CGIL), stressed that the change of the EU financial support to agriculture has had a strong impact on local economy: oranges are picked only at the beginning of the harvest and afterwards they were left on the trees with the indirect effect of decreasing the need for migrants' work. In order to satisfy the work demand in the area, 20.000 workers would be needed during the harvest season. He suggested setting up a regional Agency to manage seasonal work issuing so many temporary residence permits as the number of seasonal workers needed also in this way one would fight exploitation and organized crime. In his way the market would not be left in the hands of the 'ndrangheta, whereas currently, the mafia (about 20-25 families in the region) controls public administration and the economical field. As for Rosarno, the mafia did not accept that some migrants rebelled. He also denounced that following to a circular of Minister Sacconi, controls and inspections on the labour market have drastically decreased despite the fact that 65% of controls highlighted irregularities.

Questions and observations by Members

Members asked whether the inspections were sufficient or non-existing, and if the unions and associations worked together with "little bosses" even if knowing that they were having links with the local mafia, and what was the result of the inspections made?

Lunch break

Second Session (THotel Lamezia) :

Meeting with the Associations and NGOs responsible for the fight against organised crime and immigrants

Mr Don Pino DE MASI (LIBERA),

Danilo Chirico (Da Sud),

Vincenzo Alampi (Caritas),

Piero Conomeo (Promidea),

Manuela Miasi (CISME)

President of OMNIA

The strong influence of the local mafia on the citizens' and immigrants' life was stressed. Apparently in the Rosarno area, nothing moves without the authorisation of the 'ndrangheta and according to civil society this goes as well for the migrants' recruitment. There is no doubt that the local mafia has decided to get rid of immigrants and organised the incidents giving raise to the rebellion.

Danilo Chirico, (Da Sud) reported on other incidents in the past: 2 Algerian citizens killed in 1992, one sub-Saharan worker killed in 1996 and asked for resident permit for all migrants "deported" from Rosarno. . He denounced the lack of State action and the omnipresence of the 'n drangheta.

Diacono Vincenzo Alampi (Caritas) denounced the dramatic situation in which migrants lived stressing that this situation was well known to public authorities and to civil society for a long time. After 2008 out of 1.500/2.000 migrants only 300 were working for 2/3 days per week which was not enough to gain a living, even in poor conditions. The economic crisis had a further negative impact on the situation. He confirmed that controls on the legality of employment went down in the last years. He added that the migrants often have travelled 1000 of kilometres to work here - therefore better reception conditions should be provided - He had 3 requests; better and secured prices for the products, proper payment and living conditions and the presence of the NGO's to guarantee some basic conditions.

Piero Conomeo (Promidea) denounced serious lack of action by the public authorities at all levels: local, provincial, regional and national. Illegality is tolerated and no proper actions are taken in any respect.

Don Pino Masi (LIBERA) took part in the events of January 2010 trying to mediate between migrants, locals and public authorities. The situation turned violent because the migrants were exhausted by their extremely difficult life conditions and because of the false information, apparently circulated by the local mafia, that 4 migrants had been killed. He denounced the lack of state action.

Manuela Miasi (CISME) explained that with the economic support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs 8 infopoints for legal migrants are managed by CISME with the purpose of offering linguistic and cultural support to migrants as well as to help them finding a job.

A legal migrant from Marocco, in Rosarno since 2001, President of an ONG called OMNIA, said that OMNIA, together with trade union CISL, offers support to migrants, mainly in the field of health care. He stressed that according to the Italian legislation, if a legal migrants loses he/she shortly turns into an illegal migrant.

Questions and observations of Members

Issues addressed were the relationship between the migrants and the local population, the impact of the change in the EU funding, the “deportation” of the migrants on which Don Pino Masi (LIBERA) said that he had been present and that despite that the migrants did not want to move somewhere else, law enforcement authorities did not oblige them to leave the area but, as they were told that their security could no longer be assured, they in a way were forced to leave. The situation was so sensitive and violent that no alternative than transferring the migrants could be envisaged. Also a Member wondered whether the EU needed migration. A comment was made by another Member that it seemed contradictory stressing the positive attitude of Rosarno’s people without highlighting that they have passed a truly terror moment during the migrants’ rebellion. Also Members asked if there were examples of good integration. Another Member stressed the need to focus on effective EU migration policies taking into account the work demand: if no job for migrants were available, no integration would be possible and conflicts would raise.

Wednesday 17 February, ROME

Meeting with NGOs, at the Office of the EP in Rome

Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) Rolando MAGNANO and Sophie BAYLAC

MSF provides assistance to migrants and works with seasonal workers since 2003 (around 10,000 people moving around Italy). They provide medical help; people often do not know that they have access to healthcare and it is difficult for them, living in rural areas, reaching hospital or other health centres. 90% do not have a labour contract, 16% are victim of violence, and 65% live in bad constructions. 64% have no access to water, 62% have no access to toilets and 76% have chronic illnesses, mostly linked to working conditions and half of them have never had any contact with national health care system. In Rosarno, MSF has a mobile clinic at the site. MSF denounced that in other southern Italian regions, such as Puglia and Sicilia, active cooperation with regional authority is positive, whilst that is not the case in Calabria. MSF asks the EU to encourage policies that stop discrimination and to stimulate access to healthcare⁶.

ARCI, Filippo MIRAGLIA

Nobody is dealing with the seasonal workers. The state only does the labour inspections which lead to tensions but there is no project from the government. It could explode again. On the 1st of March 2010 ARCI will organise a public meeting where local people can meet with migrants. In case of work exploitation, residence permits should be issued.

Agenzia DIRITTI, Giovanna CAVALLO

Ms Cavallo works for an anti-racist centre in Rome. Most seasonal workers have a residence permit that is, however, about to elapse. People are terrified; nobody is doing anything about the people in Rosarno. There is no government intervention for humanitarian reasons. The lack of an appropriate legal migration policy and the creation of a specific crime for irregular migration have produced an unbearable situation for several thousands of migrants working irregularly in the agriculture sector. Mrs Cavallo pledged for massive regularisation of migrants working as seasonal workers and for a quick transposition by Italy of the EU directive on sanctions against employers of illegally staying third country nationals.

MIGRANT

He explained that they had to leave Rosarno. They were living in abandoned factories and had to work from 6:00h-20:00h, for 25 EUR a day. Sometimes they were not paid; they were exploited, harassed and hunted like animals. They felt like non-existing. They were locked up in detention centres. Around 80 of them are now in Rome, without anything. They ask simply to be considered and recognized as real economic actors. They contribute to society, they work. They would like to plead for a residence permit for humanitarian reasons.

⁶ http://www.medicisenzafrontiere.it/msfinforma/comunicati_stampa.asp?id=1629

MARCO CAPIROSSI (OSSERVATORIO ANTIRAZZISTA PIGNETO PRENESTINO – ROMA)

He informed the Members that a number of migrants who were previously in Rosarno were now hosted by friends in Rome or lived in difficult conditions at the Rome Termini railway station.

Questions and observations by Members

In their reactions, some Members recalled the need for EU measures, stressing that illegal migrants have the right to a dignified treatment; others insisted that national authorities should do more, i.e. should provide actively residence permits. A work-contract may function. The lack of control leads to invisibility.

Due to time restraints it was agreed that the organisations would send further observations in writing to the LIBE secretariat.

Meeting with Minister Roberto MARONI, Minister for internal affairs

Observations and questions from the Members

Members indicated that the visit of Minister Maroni would complete the fact finding mission. They stressed that Italy should work closer together with those Member States with an external border and that Frontex should be involved. In Rosarno it seemed that social cohesion prevailed as long as the economy worked. In the current situation migrants are only working 2 days a week. They queried about the interests of 'ndrangheta. Also they wondered what the consequences of the Rosarno incident were, what should be changed and should there be EU legislation for seasonal workers? They stressed that exploitation should be combated and an EU Directive would be needed. Rosarno seemed to be a case of irregular employment rather than irregular migration. Apparently the number of labour inspections went down in 2009 (a circular of the Ministry of Labour suggested that that was due to the economic crisis) but at the same time inspections on whether people are in possession of residence permits went up. Members wondered if Italy intended to anticipate the application of EU legislation, i.e. if Italy was willing to provide temporary residence permits in cases where people were exploited. Immigration policy needed to be a humanitarian policy, but how could this be defined? Also, a Member was shocked by the working conditions for non EU nationals in Italy, and found out that working conditions of local workers raised similar concerns. He stressed that it seems not to be a problem of migrants' rights but more of workers problem. Migrants had to pay between USD 10,000 and USD 18,000, to get to Europe; does the Minister know how this was paid? Some Members asked how the Italian government intended to strengthen the collaboration with third countries in order to control migration flows.

MINISTER Roberto MARONI

The Italian government took strong measures against illegal immigration. Throughout the country there are models applied on best practices on integration. The measures adopted by the Italian Government (security package) were subject to prior agreement with Barrot and Barroso. Italian legislation is in line with EU law. If the laws had been applied, Rosarno would not have happened. It is a problem of implementation. Workers would have had residence

permits and labour contracts. The Italian government conducted 9.354 inspections (6% less than in the past) on the labour site (to combat the 'black market, which is 28% of the PIB). The inspections proved that in Calabria 50% of the sites were irregular. Organised crime did not play a decisive role in the recruiting and managing of caporals, however, a role was played in the second stage (e.g. racketing). The decisions were taken by the Minister of Interior together with the Minister of Social Affairs. There is not only the security point of view but also 'irregular work law' is observed. The specific difficulty of the agricultural sector is seasonal work. Now we have installed a so called 'voucher' system, which means working hours are legalised for a specific period of time. 'Vouchers' are cheque to pay social contributions for immigrant workers, employers can buy the vouchers in any receiving office (unfortunately they were not purchased in Rosarno). The Bossi-Fini Law provides that employers who have employees from third countries have to provide accommodation.

Generally speaking, it is more difficult to tackle problems in the Southern regions where the trade unions do not have a large support. Not all farmers are Member of a Trade Union.

The political and social integration has to be dealt with at the regional level. The national government cannot act directly; it deals with financing (annually). The implementation of the financing is done at the regional level. The Italian Government tries to counteract illegal immigration, from 37.000 irregular immigrants in 2008 to 3.000 in 2009 (i.e. the bilateral agreement with Libya, re-admission agreements with Ghana and Niger were just signed last week next to already 36 existing bilateral agreements) but illegal immigration should be counteracted at EU level. The agreement with Libya shifted the immigrant fluxes, especially to Egypt and Morocco and therefore to Spain and Greece. Frontex is a useful tool but works on land borders (not sea borders). More resources should be available for Frontex, and it should play a more important role in repatriation. Italy never expelled unaccompanied minors (even when they were coming from another Member State); they are given protection until they are of age.

The Italian Government has already foreseen a reconversion plan of some areas in Rosarno: EUR 930.000 to convert "La Rognetta" into a local market; +/- EUR 2.000.000 to create and build an Aggregation Centre for legal immigrants (seized mafia property); EUR 200.000 in the health sector and EUR 900.000 for the urban security.

On 12 January Minister Maroni presented an information report which is available to the Italian Parliament and which is enclosed to this report. The transfers from Rosarno to Bari and Crotone were voluntary. Work is the best way to integrate people. More checks are made upon people and the checks are made regularly everywhere. It is a true emergency and is not easy to deal with it. Italy has 4 million immigrants of which 400,000 are illegal. The immigrants pay sometimes beforehand sometimes afterwards. Furthermore In reply to questions of some Members, the Minister stressed that the EU needed to support Italy as well as other countries under particular pressure, due to migration flows and he ensured his preparedness to collaborate on this. Therefore, a more effective and closer co-operation with the EU was essential, also with a more substantial role for Frontex to play a role on the EU external sea borders.

Minister Maroni said that one single country was not able to face the illegal migration phenomenon. The Italian government had foreseen specific measures together with Malta,

Cyprus and Greece. France, Portugal and Spain were going to join this group in the nearest future in order to define common tools to fight against illegal immigration in the Mediterranean Area.

Minister Maroni underlined the opportunity to equally distribute - among all Member States - migration flows in order to meet the labour market's needs and ensure fair living conditions to the migrants. Finally, he evoked a problem of compatibility between the sanctions Directive and the national law.

Meeting with the Chamber and the Senate

The meeting was chaired by Mr Vizzini, (Chairman of Constitutional Affairs Committee) who underlined the need for common action at EU level to combat black labour. EP Members expressed the importance of the dialogue between EU and national institutions in view of building a common integration and migration policy which would safeguard at the same time national identities and legality.

Observations and questions from the Members

Issues addressed were the reference by Commissioner Malmström to the Italian model of fighting against organised crime, EU legislation on migration and trafficking in human beings, the compatibility of legislation imposing offences in cases where third country nationals are illegally staying in Italy, the recent EP Resolution on trafficking in human beings, referring also to the possibility of issuing temporary residence permits for victims of trafficking in human beings.

In reply, the Italian Members of the Senate and Chambers stressed that in their view, the problem in Italy is the implementation of rules, which is often blocked by a lack of structures and that solutions to ensure compatibility of legislations are required. It was also underlined that criminal offences should focus on behaviour and not on the status of the person.

Meeting with Piero Grasso (Anti-mafia national Prosecutor)

He said that in Italy there are currently 122 town Councils run by a governmental commissioner (for different reasons), notably in southern Italy for organised crime infiltrations. Unfortunately, in Calabria the influence of the 'ndrangheta is extremely serious, and affects economic and social life of citizens. Business is either controlled by or has the protection of organised crime which leads to infrastructural heavy lacks as highlighted by the motorway Salerno-Reggio Calabria which is under permanent construction (for more than 10 years and is still not finished). Even multinationals working in Italy pay organised crime to be safe from attacks.

Italian mafia type organised crime is working on different levels and along traditional activities, it started investing in the legal market (stock exchange, restaurants etc) both to increase the profit and to money launder illegal profit. There are still some weaker democracies in Europe and new and dangerous types of mafia from Eastern countries are coming out. Organised crime is a perfect example of globalisation: cooperation between different crime organisations worldwide and notably in Europe is quickly developing involving mafia type organisations, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and other organisations such as Taliban ones. He cited a case, involving the FARC, of a boat in the Atlantic Ocean where cocaine and other goods were exchanged as if it were a supermarket for crime organizations). The Italian trafficking law is very

advanced (all'avanguardia). The attitude of some Public Prosecutors in other EU countries, denying or not recognising the links between crime organisations and their presence on the territory is dangerous as it does not allow to properly fighting this phenomenon. On the contrary, international and European cooperation is strongly needed through Eurojust, the European Judicial Network and Europol. He also called for easier judicial cooperation, notably in the investigation stage. He mentioned problems linked to asset sharing, when freezing or seizure of assets were requested abroad and stressed that in those cases no matter what country keeps the asset, properties have to be taken away from the control of organised crime. It is foreseen to have 550 new Inspectors to carry out the judicial investigations.

Concerning the Rosarno events, he said that for the time being, the investigation has not highlighted any links with the 'ndrangheta and the anti-mafia prosecution service had not been seized. The LIBE President invited the Piero Grasso to come to the EP to keep on discussing these issues.

ANNEXES: To be added