



NEWS REPORT

Date: 29 October 2014
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Title: Separate bus line for Roma
Country: Italy
Context
Issue at stake: Indirect discrimination against Roma living in a camp
Ground of discrimination: Race/ ethnic origin
Source: Proposal of an administrative act of a town
Field: Access to goods and services
Legislative provisions:

Content

Political development: The mayor of Borgaro, a town in north-west Italy has backed a controversial plan to create a separate bus route only for a Roma camp located on the outskirts of the town. The proposal was submitted at a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 23 and won the mayor's support. According to the plans, a new bus will be put in place, parallel to the route of bus line 69 and will end at a Roma camp, in the town north of Turin. In order to be approved the proposal has to be enacted by the local public transport undertaking ("GTT").

The creation of a new bus line was prompted by repeated incidents of violence occurring on the bus 69 and generally perpetrated by Roma people living in the camp located near the town of Borgaro. From the point of view of the Mayor and his majority (centre-left oriented) this proposal would help to guarantee the safety of the citizens who take the bus 69 which will not stop at the Roma camp anymore. Thus those living in the camp will have to take the new bus line if they want to get directly to their "home". The proposal has raised harsh criticism by NGOs and a minority of left-wing oriented politicians while it has been justified by the majority of politicians and commentators, including a former judge of the Italian Constitutional Court. In a statement to the press a politician from Emilia Romagna (another historically centre-left oriented Region) has declared that he would adopt a similar proposal. A survey published by the local newspaper shows that a large majority of voters support this controversial proposal. No official position has been taken by the national Government or by UNAR.

Meanwhile, an immediate action has been taken by the local public transport undertaking and the "local committee for public order and security" (a public body made up by the authorities competent to ensure public security at local level): a ticket collector and a local policeman will be present at all times all day long on the buses of line 69.