

Question for written answer E-004129/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Alberico Gambino (ECR)

Subject: The arrest of Italian football fans in Eindhoven and respect for the dignity of European citizens

Dutch and Italian press sources indicate that around 180 Napoli fans were arrested in the centre of Eindhoven on the night of 20-21 October, on the eve of the Champions League clash between PSV and Napoli.

Though local authorities claimed that they had undertaken a ‘preventive’ operation to avoid potential disturbances, there is no evidence that the arrests were preceded by any clashes or acts of violence. The fans in question – many of whom hail from Campania – were loaded onto buses and taken away, and were later detained for many hours without being formally charged.

As much as maintaining public order is necessary, collectively arresting almost 200 Italian citizens as a preventive measure is excessive and hardly justifiable, and also raises serious doubts about the way in which fellow Italians are sometimes treated abroad.

Respect for the dignity of Italian citizens and equal treatment between Member States are, and must continue to be, fundamental EU principles.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission ask the Dutch authorities to explain themselves?
2. Does the Commission think that it will have to push for the establishment of common guidelines to ensure respect and reciprocity among European citizens?

Submitted: 21.10.2025