

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001971/25
to the Commission**

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(16 May 2025)

Subject: Urgent action required for the immediate closure of the Italian migrant detention centre in Trapani

As highlighted by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) of the Council of Europe in April 2024 ⁽¹⁾, Italian migrant detention centres (CPRs) continue to perpetrate systematic human rights violations. The situation does not appear to have improved.

During a surprise inspection at the Milo-Trapani CPR on 13 April 2025 ⁽²⁾, Members of Parliament found detainees experiencing severe psychological and physical distress, with reports of physical violence and attempted suicides. The facility was in a dilapidated state, with no structured activities available, worsening detainees' mental and physical condition. Access to medical care and legal support remains extremely limited.

These conditions raise serious concerns about compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, particularly Article 1 (protection of human dignity) and Article 4 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment).

In light of these facts, the Commission is asked:

1. What is its assessment of the human rights violations identified in Italian CPRs?
2. Will it consider launching an infringement procedure against Italy for breaches of fundamental rights?
3. How will it ensure compliance with detainees' rights to health, legal assistance, family life and dignified living conditions?

Submitted: 16.5.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(15 September 2025)

The Commission is aware of the report mentioned by the Honourable Members and takes note of the issues outlined therein.

In line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, the Return Directive ⁽¹⁾ provides for concrete safeguards that Member States are obliged to respect when imposing detention in view of return ⁽²⁾.

Third-country nationals subject to a return decision must be afforded an effective remedy, and Member States must ensure that the necessary legal assistance is granted on request.

In the context of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism, the Commission with the Member States experts assesses the implementation of the return *acquis*, in particular the Return Directive, by Member States.

Following the evaluation carried out in Italy in 2021, the Council issued recommendations ⁽³⁾, which concerned, among others, detention conditions including aspects mentioned by the Honourable Members.

Since the evaluation, Italy has reported on ongoing initiatives to upgrade the living conditions in the centres and is expected to continue working on this aspect to address fully the shortcomings identified in the 2021 evaluation.

The Commission is closely monitoring the effective implementation of those recommendations, including by liaising with the Italian Ombudsman for the rights of detained persons.

¹ <https://rm.coe.int/1680b2c7e7>.

² https://palermo.repubblica.it/cronaca/2025/04/14/video/cpr_di_trapani_ilaria_salis_tortura_istituzionalizzata_va_chiuso_subito-424127661/.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p. 98 -107.

⁽²⁾ The safeguards include taking into account the state of health of the third-country national, paying particular attention to the situation of vulnerable persons, providing emergency healthcare and essential treatment of illness.

⁽³⁾ Council Implementing Decision 10415/22 setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation of Italy on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of return.

This is without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties and the possibility of taking any further action to enforce EU law, as appropriate.

As a follow up to the Lampedusa 10-point plan ⁽⁴⁾, a dedicated working group on returns ⁽⁵⁾ was set up on 25 September 2023. The group regularly meets to discuss return matters, including issues linked to detention conditions.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4503.

⁽⁵⁾ This is a tripartite working group between the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Italy.