



NEWS REPORT

Date: 2 May 2011
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Title: Report on the information mission of the National Assembly's Commission of Legislation regarding legislative adjustment relating to housing conditions of Travellers, presided by Didier QUENTIN, and presented on 9 March 2011
Country: France
Context
Issue at stake: The mission intends to evaluate existing legislation on the housing and parking of Travellers in order to present recommendations to the National Assembly's legislative commission regarding policy measures that would improve their living and housing conditions.
Ground of discrimination: Race/ethnic origin
Source: Political development
Field: All fields
Legislative provisions: Law no 2000-614 of 5 June 2000 relating to the accommodation and housing of Travellers
Law no 69-3 of 3 January 1969 relating to Travellers

Content

Political development: The difficulties Travellers face ten years after the vote of the Law no 2000-614 of 5 June 2000 relating to accommodation and housing of Travellers raise the question of the scheme of locally funded collective parking space relevance and the opportunity to pursue other strategies in order to facilitate their integration and housing.

In fact, the way of life of travelling families is facing important evolutions and many of them wish to remain part of the year in specific areas in order to facilitate their economic integration and school attendance of their children, and to travel during the summer. This has given rise in the last years to massive gatherings, called "*grands passages*" that raise new material difficulties and concerns from public authorities.



In this context, the priority given to the development of permanent public parking space to accommodate travelling families seem less relevant than the need to provide answers to and accompany their partial settlement.

A great number of families presently park their caravans on what is called 'family plots', which is constituted of land they have purchased at a lower price, in areas designated as unbuildable by the local urban planning. In this context, the National Assembly's Legislative Commission has mandated Messrs Didier Quentin, Charles de la Verpilliere and Dominique Raimbourg, all Members of Parliament of the UMP majority (right-wing), to proceed to parliamentary hearings of representatives of the various ministerial departments, of the HALDE, of the President of the National Consultative Commission on Travellers, of the National distance education centre, of the Association of Mayors of France, of existing public parking accommodation managers, of the national federation of NGOs supporting travellers, the FNASAT (Fédération nationale des associations solidaires d'action sociale avec les tsiganes et gens du voyage), of the ASNIT (Association sociale nationale internationale tzigane), of France Liberté voyages and of ANGVC (Association nationale des gens du voyage catholiques).

Recommendations: The mission proposes 15 recommendations based on two basic orientations and one transversal principle, among which the principal measures proposed are the following:

1. Organise long-term parking of Travellers:
 - Complete the program of implementation of parking accommodations and promote adapted housing by increasing the competence of local investment structures and of the prefects' power to proceed to their implementation in substitution of failing local authorities.
 - Maintain public financing of their implementation and allow towns to take them into account to meet their obligations as regards the implementation of social housing.
 - Integrate the needs of travellers in requirements of urban planning and integrate family plots as land on which they can install accommodations necessary for long term parking even though they are not constructible.
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2. Facilitate summertime massive gatherings:

- Impose a duty upon public authorities to manage these gatherings with the support of prefectural authorities, facilitate the designation of the required land and their preparation.

These recommendations aim at fostering a balance between the recognition of travellers' rights and the necessary respect of their duties as citizens. The mission therefore also recommends an amendment of the Law 69-3 concerning Travellers in order to eliminate present travelling identity documents in favour of a travelling resident card that would insure access to such accommodations, a reduction of residence requirements for access to registration on voting lists to six months, as other French citizens, and incorporate to local schemes of accommodation of Travellers a chapter on social rights and access to education.

In counterpart, the report proposes that Travellers undertake to respect safety requirements for massive gathering by declaring their participation, and interrupt illegal occupation of public property.

Internet link source and additional information:

<http://sancerre/GEIDFile/6078.PDF?>

<Archive=195247991342#xml=http://192.168.200.17/hIPDF.xml?>

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