

**Priority question for written answer P-001638/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)

Subject: Request for action and clarification on high suicide and overcrowding rates in Italian prisons

The recent suicide of a detainee in Imperia prison, the 69th since the beginning of the year, points to a persistent crisis in the Italian prison system, known for overcrowding and inadequate conditions, in violation of the standards set by the Council of Europe and the Commission recommendations on procedural rights and detention conditions¹². Against that backdrop, the Ministry of Justice's inaction is all the more conspicuous when we take into account that the Municipality of Mistretta (Messina) is willing to donate land³ for the construction of a new prison and its offer has fallen on deaf ears.

No new prisons are planned for the near future, but in the Ministry's report on the administration of justice for the year 2023⁴, there is talk instead of the construction of new wings, most of which within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)⁵ and are behind schedule⁶.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is Italy upholding the recommendations from 2006 and 8 December 2022?
2. Will the Commission assess whether specific measures or new recommendations are needed to ensure that Italy takes appropriate measures to improve detention conditions and prevent tragic events such as suicides?
3. Taking into account, among other matters, the delays with NRRP projects and the Municipality of Mistretta's willingness to provide land, what steps can the Commission take to help Italy to resolve these long-standing problems with compliance with European and international commitments on the management of penitentiary institutions?

Submitted: 5.9.2024

¹ Recommendation Rec(2006)2-rev of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Prison Rules, revised and amended by the Committee of Ministers on 1 July 2020.

² Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/681 of 8 December 2022 on procedural rights of suspects and accused persons subject to pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions, C/2022/8987, OJ L 86, 24.3.2023, p. 44.

³ Already earmarked for urban planning purposes.

⁴ https://www.giustizia.it/cmsresources/cms/documents/anno_giudiziario2024_relazione_amministrazione2023.pdf – presented at the opening of the 2024 judicial year.

⁵ Prisons: renovation funds within the framework of the NRRP <https://www.awn.it/news/notizie/8678-carceri-nel-pnrr-fondi-per-ristrutturazioni#:~:text=%22II%20fondo%20complementare%20del%20Pnrr,lavori%20di%20ristrutturazione%20di%204.>

⁶ <https://openpnrr.it/misure/360/> Construction and improvement of wings and penitentiary facilities for adults and minors – NRRP.