

President Barroso:

"The Commission's position is clear. Community law must be respected. The prohibition of discrimination based on racial and ethnic origin is one of the European Union's fundamental principles.

The Commission will do what is necessary to ensure the respect of Community law.

Vice-President Reding has made this clear. She has done so with the full backing of the College, and with my personal backing. She spoke after consultations with me, and with my support.

However, one or the other expression used in the heat of the moment may have given rise to misunderstandings. Vice-President Reding did not want to establish any parallelism between what happened in World War II and the present.

I take good note of today's statements according to which France considers that this is the moment for dialogue. As you know, the Commission will conclude its analysis in the next two weeks.

I very much hope that we can now have full transparency on this matter. And I very much hope that all is done to ensure full respect of Community law."