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2ND EUROPEAN ROMA SUMMIT
SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2010

PROMOTING POLICIES IN FAVOUR OF THE ROMA POPULATION

Conference Centre, Cordoba, 8-9 April 2010

REFERENCE DOCUMENT



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I. CONTEXT

With over twelve million inhabitants, Roma population is the largest ethnic minority in Europe. The Roma are present in every country, although they are mainly concentrated along the central and eastern countries of the continent. Despite the diversity of cultural and socioeconomic situations, as well as the traditions, **the living conditions of many Roma are characterised by extreme poverty, social exclusion and the general rejection they suffer from the majority of the population.** This situation can be seen in poor housing, low educational levels, difficulties in accessing employment and poor health among many Roma. Moreover, a great part of their population suffers from discrimination and racism on a daily basis, as well as from the deprivation of their basic rights as persons.

The European political and social changes of the last two decades and the EU enlargement processes have been accompanied by an extensive migration process that has resulted in **greater relevance of the Roma issues, both on the European political agenda as well as on the agenda of many of their Member States.** In fact, this issue has been the subject of much discussion at the European Council and the European Parliament; multiple studies, analysis and conferences have addressed it, as well as several actions implemented by the European Commission. We should also give a special mention to the beginning of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2005.

The **European Parliament adopted in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010 successive resolutions** focused on the need to undertake effective measures at the European and national level to solve the problems of marginalisation, rejection and racism they suffer, and to improve not only their living standards, but also the effective exercise of their rights. The **Council**, aware of the very peculiar situation faced by the Roma across the Union, has also adopted **conclusions in 2007, 2008 and 2009** urging Member States and the Union to use all means to improve their integration. **Multiple actions and measures** have been launched within the **European Commission** in line with these conclusions and recommendations.

The establishment by a Council decision in 2009 of the **Integrated Platform on Roma Inclusion**, aimed at *exchanging good practices, coordination and experience among States in the field of inclusion, providing support for the analysis procedure and encouraging cooperation among all parties affected by Roma-related issues, including representative organisations*, undoubtedly has meant substantial progress in the Community instruments for the promotion of the Roma population. A set of **Ten Common Basic Principles** were defined within this Platform; in fact, the June 2009 Council agreed that the Commission and the Member States should, in close cooperation and according to their respective competences, take into account these Common Principles, if appropriate, when developing



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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and implementing policies to promote full inclusion of the Roma population, as well as when producing and applying policies advocating for fundamental rights.

The Spanish Presidency, which takes place at the same time as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion within a scenario of major institutional changes where the European Union Objectives 2020 will be adopted, intends to boost the Roma dossier during the first semester of 2010 **focusing on political objectives and providing content to the existing instruments**. To this purpose, the Spanish Presidency aims to advance, in cooperation with the Trio, in the framework of the Platform, establishing its content of work in the medium term based on the Ten Common Basic Principles, defining the axes upon which to operate, prioritising the key issues to be addressed and indicating its future work plan. At the same time it intends to make substantial progress on mainstreaming Roma issues on the most relevant policies and progress towards a more efficient use of the financial instruments specially the Structural Funds.

II. THE SECOND SUMMIT

The First European Roma Summit, held in Brussels in September 2008, marked a historic milestone, not only in raising awareness about the problems of the Roma population, but also in the need to promote policies to tackle the extreme exclusion and discrimination that many of them experience. Some public figures, including President Barroso, Commissioner Spidla or George Soros, stressed that the **European Union cannot remain indifferent to the problems of the Roma**, that the political leadership of the Union and Member States in this area is necessary, as well as long-term solutions which are developed in an integrated manner and from a cross-cutting perspective.

The creation after this first Summit of the **Integrated Platform**, which has already held two meetings, has meant significant progress, since **it can be an effective instrument to advance policies with a close cooperation between the Members States and the Union**. But it also risks failing if it is not endowed with content, clear medium-term objectives, an appropriate working system and the necessary means. The definition of the **Ten Common Basic Principles allows for guidance on how to focus actions on Roma population, at both the local and national levels**. Nevertheless, those principles should be deepened and developed in order to achieve full effectiveness of their potentialities.

The **Second European Roma Summit**, whose title is *Promoting policies in favour of the Roma population*, will join more than four hundred persons in Cordoba on 8-9 April. During one day and a half, European (Commissioners, MEPs), national and local (Ministers, Mayors) high-level political representatives, as well as senior officials, Roma leaders and experts, **will discuss the immediate challenges to current policies on the Roma and the specific manner to respond to them**. For such purpose, the steps to be taken in the future will be proposed with a basis on the progress achieved since the First Summit.

The goals of the Summit are:



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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- Promote dialogue and discussion on the progress achieved over the past two years in the European and national policies on the Roma and define the immediate challenges to be met.
- Reveal ongoing experiences, initiatives and projects, and reflect on their lessons and their possible application to other contexts.
- Define how the Integrated Platform on Roma Inclusion should progress, as well as the content to be addressed within it in order to make this Platform accomplish its mission effectively.
- Explore four of the Common Basic Principles with the purpose of developing and defining the consequences that their monitoring have in the design of policies, plans and projects on the Roma community.
- Propose specific ideas and measures on how the Roma can be included in a cross-cutting manner in future Community policies within the framework of the European Union 2020, as well as in financing instruments, namely the Structural Funds.

The results of the Summit will be extremely useful for the work developed by the different Community and national policies. Recommendations will be included in the proposals for conclusions that the Spanish Presidency will present to the Council, as well as in the next meeting of the Platform to be held at the end of the first semester of 2010 and in the future works of the Trio.

III. PROGRAMME

OFFICIAL OPENING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ROMA

The Spanish Minister of Health and Social Policy *Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera* will chair the official opening session on behalf of the Spanish Government and will include the works of the Summit in the context of the social objectives of the Spanish Presidency, specifically in relation to the Roma population. The Minister will stress the implications and meaning of the slogan chosen for this Second Summit: *Promoting policies in favour of the Roma population*.

Next, the Minister will give the floor to the Mayor of the City of Cordoba *Andrés Ocaña Rabadán* who, as the host, will welcome all the attendants to the Second Summit.



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AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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The Second Vice-President of the Spanish State Council of the Roma People *Antonio Vázquez Saavedra* will welcome attendants on behalf of the Spanish Roma and the Council, which is the Government body in charge of dialogue with the Roma community.

Then the Regional Minister for Equality and Social Welfare of the Regional Government of Andalusia *Micaela Navarro Garzón* will make a statement from the perspective of the policies carried out on this population in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. Approximately 40% of the Spanish Roma population lives in this region.

The roundtable will be closed by the Vice-President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship *Viviane Reding* who from the Community perspective will contextualise the Summit in the challenges that the EU has to face regarding the Roma population in the forthcoming years.

The opening session will be closed with a ceremonial performing of the Gelem Gelem Hymn

ROUND TABLE: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL POLICIES ON THE ROMA.

This Table will be chaired by the Spanish Minister of Health and Social Policy *Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera*, and it aims to evaluate action on Roma from the perspective of international institutions. It is especially intended for the presentation of what has been done in recent years and the challenges to be met in the future as a whole. The statements of the speakers will last ten minutes.

The President of The Open Society Institute *George Soros*, as a philanthropist and co-promoter of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, who is internationally renowned for his commitment to the Roma cause, will evaluate the evolution of this issue in recent years and the political challenges that in his opinion should be undertaken in the future.

The Director of Strategy and Operations for Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank *Theodore Ahlers*, as a representative of the co-promoter entity of the Decade, will present the view of this international organisation on the recent evolution and future challenges in relation to the Roma population.

The MEP *Livia Járóka* (PPE, HU) will summarise the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament in recent years, the extent to which they have been accomplished, the recent resolution adopted in March, the works currently being carried out by the institution and their content.



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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The Member of the Madrid Club and Bulgarian ex Prime Minister, *Philip Dimitrov*, will focus on the importance of social promotion of the Roma minority and the need for its full democratic participation in Europe.

The French Secretary of State for European Affairs *Pierre Lellouche* will show the national policies effects regarding the Roma population and the importance of cooperation between European countries.

Finally, the UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS *Kori Udovicki* will present an evaluation of the work that the United Nations Development Programme has developed in Central and Eastern Europe and the challenges currently met.

ROUNDTABLE: ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES: PROGRESS AND LIMITATIONS

This table will be chaired by the Director for Equality between Men/Women of the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities *Belinda Pyke*, and it aims to explore policies in order to evaluate to what extent they are consistent, the limits they have and the changes that should be made to achieve greater impact on the promotion of the Roma. Before giving the floor to the speakers, the Chairperson of the Table will briefly present and assess the initiatives undertaken by her Directorate. Statements will have a maximum duration of ten minutes.

Structural Funds are the major instrument of the European Union for the promotion of economic and social cohesion. It has been repeatedly pointed out that it is necessary to make these instruments have a clear impact on the Roma community. The Deputy Director-General of the DG Regional Policy *Katarina Mathernová* will present the initiatives that have been recently undertaken from the field of competence of the DG. In particular she will refer to the Pilot Project and the amendment to Article 7.2 of ERDF, as well as to the challenges to be addressed in the current programming period and after 2013.

EURroma network comes into being, in fact, as an intergovernmental cooperation initiative within the framework of the Structural Funds. The Deputy Director-General for the Administrative Unit of the European Social Fund, *Carlos Tortuero* will present the progress made within this initiative and the challenges to be addressed in the future.

The Council of Europe, as a body whose mission is to promote human rights, democracy and freedom in Europe, has always shown great concern about the problems that the Roma face, especially in some countries. It is expected that the Director General of Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe, *Alexander Vladychenko*, will make a review of the situation, including the initiatives and actions undertaken or envisaged by different bodies related to the Council, such as the ECRI or the Development Bank.



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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ERIO Executive Director *Ivan Ivanov*, as a representative of an office whose purpose is to provide further information to the Roma and on the Roma, and which works in partnership with the Commission, will carry out an assessment of the key Community policies and the challenges to be addressed within them.

Next, the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities, *Ludovit Galbavy* will make a statement as a representative of the country that currently holds the Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. He will evaluate the progress achieved five years after its launch and the challenges to be undertaken in the remaining five years, as well as how to strengthen cooperation between this initiative and the European Union policies.

Finally, the Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights *Morten Kjaerum* will present the key work and challenges of the Agency as regards Roma and in relation to Fundamental Rights and the promotion of equal treatment.

After the statements of all participants in the table, there will be a question time during which the attendants may ask questions or make proposals that will be discussed by the participants in the table.

PARALLEL ROUNDTABLES: IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR ROMA INCLUSION

The afternoon session will be structured in four discussion tables held at the same time; they will explore the content, meaning and implications of four of the Basic Common Principles adopted within the Platform, and how these can provide guidance to the policies and actions and programmes being developed by different actors at both national and international levels.

Roundtable 1: Principle No. Two: “Explicit but not exclusive targeting”. Segregation versus integration. Specific projects with Roma versus general projects. (Spanish, English, French)

This table, which will be chaired by the Regional Representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Brussels, *Jan Jařab*, will explore the implications of the Principle Number Two: *explicit but not exclusive targeting*. The options arising from the discussion on whether it is necessary to develop specific programmes on Roma population, or it is better to make the Roma population join the existing programmes aimed at the whole population, have been raised as alternate and contradictory options in many occasions. Principle Two arises from the finding that given the disadvantages and peculiarities of the Roma population, in most cases there is a need for an approach in which actions are adapted to their reality, as well as for a setting of the objectives pursued for the Roma population participating in these projects. In the light of the above, projects on Roma population cannot be segregating, but should instead lead to the normalisation of persons and be open to other populations in similar circumstances.



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

eu 2010.es

The Roundtable will be constituted by *Isidro Rodríguez Hernández*, Director of the *Fundación Secretariado Gitano*, which is the entity in charge of the Secretariat of the EURoma Network and the “Acceder” project; *Jesús Maeztu Gregorio de Tejada*, Commissioner for the Southern Seville Industrial Area, which is a neighbourhood where a comprehensive project based on residential exclusion is being developed; *Ilie Dincă*, President of the Romanian National Agency for Roma, which leads, among others, a project on health mediators; *Tobias Linden*, Director of the Roma Education Fund (REF); and *Thomas Bender*, Director of the ESF, DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission.

Each one of the speakers will be asked specific questions on how the projects on the Roma can develop in a pro-active fashion the principle of explicit but not exclusive targeting, how to combine projects specifically targeted at Roma and projects targeted at the whole population, which have impact on the Roma as well, and how *target* projects should lead to normalisation. A methodology and content guide has been produced for this table.

Roundtable two: Principle No. Five: “Awareness of the gender dimension”. (Spanish, English, German)

This table will be chaired by the Spanish Secretary-General for Equality Policies, *Isabel María Martínez Lozano*, and will have the presence of *Gabriela Hrabaňová*, from the Czech State Council for the Roma Community; *Soraya Post*, from the International Roma Women’s Network; *Carmen Santiago Reyes*, Lawyer and Spanish Representative at the European Travellers Forum; and *Ostalinda Maya Ovalle*, from the European Roma Rights Center (ERRC).

As it has been repeatedly pointed out, Roma women are often discriminated not only as women, but also because they belong to an ethnic minority. Many projects show that women’s active participation is critical to the success of such projects, and that women play a major role within the community, which should be respected and strengthened. Roma development and social inclusion depend largely on the development and promotion of their women.

Therefore, gender dimension is a cross-cutting issue which has to be taken into account in all projects, not only with a view to offset the disadvantages suffered by women, but also to strengthen their potentialities. The participants in the Roundtable and the attendants to this session will discuss how gender dimension is taken into account in ongoing projects, and how it can be reinforced. A content and method guide has been prepared for this table.

Roundtable three: Principle No. Seven: “Use of Community instruments”. How can EU instruments be more effective at the local level? (Spanish, English, Hungarian)

This table will be chaired by *Apolonio Ruiz – Ligeró* Vice – Chairmen of the Council of Europe Development Bank and will explore how the various legal, political and funding instruments can serve to promote the Roma community. It has been repeatedly pointed out



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

eu 2010.es

that one of the key issues for the appropriate development of the Roma population is to make the existing tools accessible, adaptable, and have an impact on this community.

Participants in the Roundtable will address this issue from different perspectives: *Božidar Djelic*, Serbian Vice-Prime Minister, from the perspective of Pre-Accession Instruments; *Christer Hallerby*, State Secretary for Integration and Gender Equality, from the perspective of the experience of the Swedish Network of Municipalities with Roma Communities; *Tibor Pávay*, Representative of the Department of Debrecen, Hungary, from the perspective of the experience during the High-Level Visit to Hungary at the end of last year; *Tamar Manuelyan Atinc*, Director of the Human Development Department in Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank, highlighting the economic costs of the exclusion of Roma population; *Niall Crowley*, from Equinet, exploring the effectiveness and potential of the Anti-Discrimination Directives.

The speakers will reflect on how the different legal, economic and political instruments, especially the Community instruments, can be more effective on the policies targeting Roma, particularly at the local level. A content and method guide has been prepared for this table.

Roundtable four: Principle No. Nine: “Involvement of civil society”. Attracting civil society towards Roma causes (Spanish, English, Romani)

This table will be chaired by *Andrzej Mirga*, Senior Advisor of OSCE ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti. It will explore how to strengthen and attract social initiative towards the Roma cause, as well as the role of Roma organisations. To this purpose, several stakeholders involved in this issue will take part in the session contributing different perspectives and approaches.

Statements will be made by: *Lisa Jordan*, from the Forum for Roma Inclusion of the European Foundation Centre; *David Mark*, from the Civic Alliance of Romania; *Kinga Góncz*, MPE (ESP, HU); *Juan de Dios Ramírez Heredia*, Former Member of European Parliament; and *Orhan Galjus*, Roma journalist.

The Roundtable discussion will primarily focus on how Roma empowerment can be reinforced thus they can play an active role in different civil society bodies, and how the different non-public stakeholders, media, foundations, etc., can be more committed to the Roma cause. A content and method guide has been prepared for this table.

COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY

The first working day will end with the River Ceremony and the Award Ceremony of the *Instituto de Cultura Gitana*, coinciding with the International Roma Day.

ROUNDTABLE: ROMA HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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Health is one of the four basic pillars of the integration of the Roma population, along with education, housing and employment. The Spanish Presidency wanted to host a plenary session on health during this Second Summit, aware of the poor health situation of many Roma persons, which affects not only their life expectancy but also their quality of life. The socioeconomic context and the habitat in which many Roma persons live determine their health conditions. Therefore, the European Commission, in its recent Communication on *Solidarity in Health: Reducing Health Inequalities in the European Union* makes special mention of vulnerable groups such as the Roma.

The roundtable will be chaired by the Spanish Secretary-General for Health of Spain, *José Martínez Olmos* who will provide a brief introduction to European Union policies in the field of health. He will explore the social determinants of health inequalities and how they affect the Roma population, and will report on the European progress in the field of health and inequalities during the Spanish Presidency. He will then give the floor to the following speakers.

Next, *Isabel de La Mata*, Principal Advisor for Public Health will present the EU Public Health Programme of the DG Health and Consumer Protection, with particular reference to the actions that could have an impact on the health problems of the Roma within the framework of this Programme.

It is intended that the Director of the European Office for Investment for Health and Development of the WHO Regional Office for Europe *Erio Ziglio* will examine from the WHO perspective the key elements that are essential to correct inequalities in health, the investment required and the foreseeable impact on the Roma community.

The table will also count on the experience of the MEHO project on Roma health, presented by *Kvetoslava Rimárová* of the University of Košice of Slovakia, with the purpose of drawing specific lessons from the ongoing successful experiences.

After each one of the statements, that will have a maximum duration of twelve minutes, the moderator will open a discussion among attendants in order not only for them to ask questions but also to propose measures and suggestions for the future.

PRESENTATION OF CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

The Summit rapporteur will summarise the key ideas drawn from each one of the plenary sessions, as well as from the parallel working tables. These ideas will be contextualised in the current community policies paying special attention to the proposals and suggestions for the future made by speakers and attendants. Some of them will be collected in the form of questions to be posed to the participants in the table.

In the light of the ideas-force and proposals arising from the one and a half working days, the participants in the table: the Spanish Secretary-General for Social Policy and Consumer Protection *Francisco Moza Zapatero*, the Belgian Secretary of State for Social Integration



FOR DIVERSITY
AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

eu 2010.es

and Combating Poverty *Philippe Courard*, and the Hungarian Secretary of State responsible for the Coordination of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour *Judit Szentirmai*, will share their views and discuss to what extent the Trio, i.e., the Spanish Presidency, the forthcoming Belgian Presidency and the Hungarian Presidency plan to advance the Roma cause. Should there be time left, some of the attendants may also make comments to the conclusions.

After the conference, a summary in English and Spanish will be made thereof, and they will be disseminated by the European Commission and the Spanish Presidency.

CLOSING SESSION

The closing session will be chaired by the Spanish Minister for Equality *Bibiana Aído Almagro* and closed by the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion *László Andor*, who will speak about the key actions that the European Commission has developed since the First Summit, as well as the initiatives it intends to undertake in the future.

Ministers and State secretaries from the European Union countries and from the candidate countries for adhesion and the Balkans have also been invited to the closing session. Minister of Human Rights of the Czech Republic *Michael Kocáb*, Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland *Liisa Hyssälä*. Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia *Nezdet Mustafa*, Minister of Bosnia Herzegovina *Safet Halilovic*, Vice Prime Minister for EU integration of Serbia *Božidar Delic*. Secretary of State within Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection of Romania *Valentin Mocanu*. *Nicolae Gheorghe* will also participate in the table as a Roma activist and Roma, y *Beatriz Carrillo* on behalf of the Spanish State Council of the Roma People.

Since it is expected that this table will attract many participants, each of the participants has been requested to convey to the attendants to the Second European Roma Summit a key message or idea-force in the light of the discussions, contents and views raised during the Summit.