Roma Inclusion 2008

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Belgrade, September 4, 2008
50. … The European Council, conscious of the very specific situation faced by the Roma across the Union, invites Member States and the Union to use all means to improve their inclusion. To this end it invites the Commission to examine existing policies and instruments and to report to the Council on progress achieved before the end of June 2008.

- Racial violence, anti-gysism
- Political awareness that further negligence is not a feasible option
49. ... "The European Council looks forward to the results of the Commission's evaluation of existing policies and instruments aimed at improving the inclusion of the Roma population as well as to the forthcoming conference on this issue to be held in September. It invites the Council to take this into account in its examination of the revised Social Agenda. The European Council will return to this issue before the end of the year."

- Clear Member States’ commitment
- Constant pressure to keep issue on the agenda
- Awareness that situation has human rights, social, and security dimension
- 1st time official Commission report

Commitment for Follow-up by Council
Need for support by Commission
**Outputs – Inputs**

**Communication**
Section on Roma in the Non-discrimination Communication
(July 2, 2008)

**Civil society**
Participation / input

**EU Roma Summit**
(September 16, 2008)

**Staff Working Document**
Policies and instruments for Roma inclusion. An analysis
(July 2, 2008)

**Member States**
Participation / input

**EP, EESC, CoE, others**
Participation, reports and resolutions, opinion
EU Roma Summit: Main Purposes

Open and critical debate involving all key actors

Real Summit
EU institutions, Member States, civil society

Foundations for a new partnership: Commitments and working methods

ERPC Declaration
Papers from NGOs
CSWD COM
**Structure of the Agenda**

**EU Roma Summit**

*Opening:* Barroso  
*Key Note:* Soros  
*Introductory Panel:* EU institutions and experts  
*Key Note:* Kouchner  
*Policy Panel I:* Global Responsibility  
*Key Note:* Katsu  
*Policy Panel II:* A Can-Do-Approach  
*Key Note:* Rose  
*Policy Panel III:* Rights Based Perspective  
*Closing Panel:* The Way Forward  
*Conclusions:* Špidla

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**Ca. 50 ministers, secretaries of state, NGO presidents and MEPs**

**Huge media interest**

**> 400 participants**

**Representatives from Member States, candidate countries, W. Balkans**
**Aims and Possible Issues to Be Raised**

**Moderated Panel:** Views of EU institutions and experts on what needs to be done to found a new partnership

**Panel I Global Responsibility:** The Global context: geographically (incl. Enlargement, neighborhood policy), politically, societal and genderwise

**Panel II Can-Do-Approach:** Identification of key factors for success of practical programs and policies

**Panel III Rights Based Perspectives:** Focus on the issue of rights: fundamental human rights, and social rights

**Closing Panel The Way Forward:** Summing-up the debates and develop concrete ideas for the way forward
Elements of Follow-up

**Declaration**
ERPC

**Contributions from NGOs**

**Conclusions**
Commissioner Špidla

**Conference report**

**Transmission of results of EU Roma Summit to French Presidency**

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**Council**
- Consideration of results at EPSCO Council level (tbd)
- Commitment to discuss issue before the end of 2008
- Conclusions of the European Council of December 2008
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Annex 1: Main Results CSWD

- instruments and policies are appropriate, but there is an implementation gap in the Member States
- the use of the potential of Structural Funds and pre-accession instruments is crucial for overcoming exclusion
- the policy cooperation mechanisms at EU - and Member States level are suitable for targeted analysis and action
- there is a need for a supporting context around the rights-based approach; Equality bodies and the cooperation/capacity building of civil society play an important role in this respect
- in the framework of existing instruments and policies there is considerable room for manoeuvre to make them more effective (lessons learned)
Clear position regarding anti-gypsism, discrimination and social exclusion of Roma

Commitment to enforce Non-discrimination legislation;

Commitment to support capacity building of civil society and to involve it at all levels of policy development and implementation

Commitment to support Council in responding to the call of the June 2008 European Council

Willingness to use the scope for improvement to make Community instruments and policies more effective