The European Commission's approach to Roma inclusion 2008-2010 and the Roma Platform

Meeting of the ISC Roma Decade

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Context: Council conclusions in 2007-2009

- EPSCO Council June 2009
- European Council June 2008
- General Affairs Council December 2008

- ✓ Political commitment of EU and Member States to address the issue at Community level and implement action at national level
- ✓ Member States’ commitment
- ✓ Mandate for the Commission
- ✓ Commission’s willingness to lead, coordinate and support
- ✓ Common Basic Principles to be embedded in all policies
- ✓ Integration of Roma aspects in structural policies
Developments 2008-2010

- EP reports and Pilot Project Council conclusions
- EESC opinion
- Commission non-discrimination Communication and report on Roma Inclusion
- 1st EU Roma Summit
- Preparatory experts meeting and first seminar of EU Platform for Roma Inclusion in Prague
- Commission Progress report on Roma Inclusion
- 2nd EU Roma Summit

Civil society advocacy and cooperation

EPSCO Council and Common Basic Principles
Implementation of the platform

- Platform as a **process** driven by stakeholders (EU institutions, committed Member States, international organizations and civil society) and their actions
- Key roles of EU **Presidencies**: maintain political momentum in Council work and through EU Roma Summits and platform events
- **European Commission** is willing to lead by example as key stakeholder through action and deliverance of tangible results
- **Basic principles** as key for success: development of Common Basic Principles by Czech Presidency
- Need for complementary and mutually reinforcing **action** undertaken by the Member States and the EU in the limits of their **competencies**
Policy content from Commission to platform process

Political guidance from the College

Commission services following up the CSWD on Community instruments and policies with a view to increase their effectiveness

External dimension: integrating Roma issues into dialogue with third countries and use pre-accession aid for Roma inclusion in (potential) candidate countries

High-level bilateral visits Commission – Member States on the implementation of the ESF, ERDF and EAFRD for Roma inclusion

Implementation of pilot project on Roma inclusion
Follow-up of CSWD – concrete examples

Rights and legal instruments
- enforcement of existing legislation
- support of awareness-raising and capacity building for practitioners (i.a. lawyers, NGOs, trade unions)
- enhancement of knowledge about rights
- support of cooperation among Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

Policy analysis, coordination and financial support
- review of effectiveness of projects and policies for Roma inclusion
- examination of situation of Roma women
- integrating Roma aspect in mainstream policy processes
- addressing issue of data collection
- promotion of cooperation between Member States
- definition of specific initiatives for the inclusion of Roma
- promotion of using the Structural Funds for inclusion of Roma
- capacity building of Roma (and non-Roma) civil society
- identification and dissemination of good practice

Governance
- monitoring the progress on the ground in close cooperation with civil society and local actors
- communicating the problems, possible solutions and success factors for improving Roma inclusion
Next steps

Commission progress report to 2nd EU Roma Summit
April 8, 2010 Cordoba

Joint DGs High Level Visits to Member States

ERRC study on projects, programmes and policies 2009/2010
• Identify successful models for Roma inclusion policies
• Identify the characteristics of successful programmes and projects
• Formulate recommendations

Informal Contact Group

Cooperation with international organizations and civil society

Sessions of the working groups of the EUROMA in 2009/2010

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Conclusions

☑ The approach of the platform as driven by concrete action and precise commitments from stakeholders has the potential to make change happen.

☑ The Common Basic Principles can serve as a political orientation for EU institutions and Member States and support them in stepping up their commitments.

☑ The Commission delivers on its commitment to follow up the analysis of Community instruments and policies and make them more effective for Roma inclusion.

☑ This follow up process is on track and will deliver results by the next EU Roma Summit.

☑ The combination of a targeted and a mainstreaming approach is an important success factor.

☑ Reporting in the media and thus an effective communication strategy has a crucial impact.