

# EU ROMA WEEK

27/03/2017-03/04/2017

#EURomaweek

Held under the high patronage of the  
European Commission and the European  
Parliament in cooperation with Roma Civil  
Society





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## Roma week background

Roma week 2017 will be held from 27th March to 3rd April 2017 to mark the occasion of International Roma Day on 8th April 2017. Roma week 2017 follows on from the first Roma week that was held in Brussels in 2016 and a number of workshop/events will be organised to raise awareness about issues facing Roma people.

The International Roma Day in 2017 will commemorate the 46th anniversary of the first Romani Congress that was organised in London in 1971 and that marked 8th April as International Roma Day.

### Hosts

Soraya Post, Brando Benifej, Bodil Ceballos, Damian Draghici, Cornelia Ernst, Fredrick Federley, Marina Albiol Guzmán, Benedek Javor, Barbara Lochbihler, Peter Niedermuller, Tania González Peñas, Terry Reintke, Barbara Spinelli and Tomáš Zdechovský

ERGO Network, OSEPI, FSG, ERRC, ENAR, ternYpe and Central Council of German Sinti and Roma

### Roma week 2016 outcomes

Roma week 2016 resulted in the Slovak Presidency having two Council Conclusions on Roma (both adopted in December 2016) with reference to the European Parliament's 2015 resolution on antigypsyism. Roma week 2016 has also led to Roma week 2017 being a joint initiative of the European Commission and European Parliament together with international organisations and civil society.

### Objectives of Roma week 2017

- **Recognition of antigypsyism**

Antigypsyism is still the root-cause of the exclusion and marginalisation of Roma in Europe. The first step towards a new generation of more efficient policies and programmes that will make a real change in the situation of the Roma in Europe is to recognise anti-gypsyism as a specific form of racism in its various forms and to fight it at all levels of our societies. Without systematic and long-term efforts of public institutions to address anti-gypsyism, EU and governmental policies on Roma inclusion will remain without impact.

- **Post 2020 process: Mid-term review of EU Roma framework and input for EU Roma policy**

Roma people continue to be discriminated in fields such as education, employment, housing, health care, public security, media and democratic participation. Measures should be implemented to ensure fighting anti-gypsyism is mainstreamed in the areas of education, healthcare, employment and housing as well as Roma specific measures (funding, indicators, and monitoring mechanisms) that are explicit but not exclusive as a step towards post 2020 process. The shrinking space for the Roma civil society should be highlighted on the agenda, as civil society has a huge role to play to hold (local) governments accountable and involve themselves in policy processes.

- **Establish a Roma Holocaust Memorial Day**

The Nazi and their allies exterminated 500,000 Roma during World War II with at least 23,000 Roma gassed to death in the Zigeunerlager (Gypsy camp) of Auschwitz-Birkenau during World War II. In one night, from 2nd to 3rd August 1944, 2897 Roma, mostly women, children and elderly people, were killed at that camp. Recognition of crimes against humanity committed against Roma people is essential to tackling anti-gypsyism.

**Outcomes**

- Analysis of the implementation of the EU Roma Framework and recommendations for the mid-term review with a view to post 202 process.
- Concrete policy recommendations from each workshop/event during Roma week 2017 that can be included into the European Parliament's own "initiative report" on Anti-gypsyism which will be presented in late 2017.
- Facilitating capacity building, networking and advocacy for Roma activists.



## **Strengthening diverse leadership, participation and representation of Roma, including women and youth, in public and political life**

Hosted by Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

Dates: 27/03/2017 and 28/03/2017

Times: 14:00-18:00 and 09:00-11:30

Location: European Parliament ASP 5G305

### **Objective**

Networking and knowledge exchange of Roma, including women and youth, towards more inclusive policies addressing community interests.

### **Agenda**

#### **14:00-14:30: Opening and introduction of participants**

Mirjam Karoly, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues/Chief of Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR

Mischa Thompson, Policy Advisor, Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe–U.S. Helsinki Commission

#### **14:30-16:00: European and U.S. Perspectives on Diversity in the Public and Political Spheres Panel will focus on the current state of diversity in political leadership and participation in Europe and the United States**

Moderator: Iulius Rostas, Chair in Romani Studies, Central European University

Soraya Post MEP, S&D, Co-President of the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup

Mee Moua, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Ciprian Necula, Roma activist and Former State Secretary

Livia Jaroka, Roma politician and former Member of the European Parliament

Assita Kanko, Author, columnist and politician

#### **16:15-17:45: Changing the narrative about Roma and other diverse communities**

An overview of how views of Roma impact policy and Roma political participation

European and U.S. leaders will facilitate discussions with participants to develop strategies to change biased narratives impacting Roma and other diverse communities

Introducer: Roland Ferkovics, Fellow, German Marshall Fund

Facilitator: Mee Moua, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Facilitator: Julie Pascoet, Senior Advocacy Officer, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

**09:00-10:15: Engaging in dialogue and changing policy**

European and U.S. leaders will work with participants to develop strategies to increase dialogue and networking between Roma and mainstream policy makers and how to impact policy change utilizing strategies discussed in the changing the narrative workshop

Facilitator: Mischa Thompson, Policy Advisor, Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe—U.S. Helsinki Commission

**10:15–11:15: More inclusive memberships and political platforms of mainstream political parties for Roma and Sinti**

Moderator: Jamen Gabriela Hrabanova, European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO) Network

Introducer: Terry Reintke MEP, Greens/EFA

Introducer: Killion Munyama, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Introducer: Petre Florin Manole, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Parliament

**11:15-11:30: Conclusions and recommendations**

Mirjam Karoly, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues/Chief of Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR

**11:30-12:15: Lunch**



European Commission | Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

**EU ROMA  
INTEGRATION  
AWARD**  
for the Western Balkans and Turkey

## **Second EU Roma Integration Award for the Western Balkans and Turkey**

Hosted by European Commission Directorate-General European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Date: 28/03/2017

Time: 10:00-12:00

Location: Thon Hotel EU

### **Objective**

The ceremony is organised by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (European Commission) as part of its initiatives promoting the integration of Roma communities, with a focus on youth and children. Non-governmental organisations from the enlargement region will be rewarded for their projects supporting Roma children, youth and young adults. In addition to civil society and international organisations supporting Roma integration, the event will bring together representatives of the EU Member States, Western Balkans and Turkey and the EU institutions.

### **Agenda**

#### **10:00-11:00: Award ceremony**

Welcome: Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Opening remarks: Christian Danielsson, Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Presentation of projects nominated for the Second EU Roma Integration Award (video trailer)

Announcement of awards

Group photo of prize winners

#### **11:00-12:00: Cultural event**

Introduction: Christian Danielsson, Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Presentation of photo exhibitions developed under two projects on Roma inclusion in Montenegro and in Turkey

Brunch





## **Combating Antigypsyism and a gender and youth dimension in the current and post-2020 EU Roma Policy**

Hosted by Greens/EFA in cooperation with ERGO Network

Date: 28/03/2017

Time: 12:30-14:30

Location: European Parliament JAN 6Q1

### **Objective**

Analysis of current policy approach and concrete policy recommendations for mainstreaming antigypsyism and women/youth in the EU Roma Framework assessment and post 2020 process.

### **Agenda**

#### **Moderator**

Terry Reintke MEP, Greens/EFA

#### **12:45-13:05: Introductory statements**

Benedek Javor MEP, Greens/EFA

Barbara Lochbihler MEP, Greens/EFA

Dóra Husz, Non-discrimination and Roma coordination Unit, European Commission Directorate-General Justice and Consumers

#### **13:05: 14:25: Open discussion**

Round 1: Antigypsyism from different perspectives and what is already there?

Jonathan Mack, Alliance against Antigypsyism

Iulias Rostas, Central European University (CEU)

Round 2: What is the role of Roma Civil Society actors?

Sara Gimenez, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG)

Irina Spataru, Romano Centro

Round 3: What is the role of the EU?

Gábor Daróczy, Green Workshop Foundation

Christel Mercade Piqueras, Fundamental Rights Unit, European Commission Directorate-General Justice and Consumers

#### **14:25: Closing remarks**

Bodil Valero MEP, Greens/EFA



## **Taking stock of the EU Roma Framework and National Roma Integration Strategies - with a view to building a post-2020 strategic approach**

Hosted by Tomáš Zdechovský MEP, Barbara Spinelli MEP, Marina Albiol Guzmán MEP and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in cooperation with Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI), European Roma Grassroots Organisation Network (ERGO), Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG)

Date: 28/03/2017

Time: 15:00-17:30

Location: European Parliament PHS 1C051

### **Objective**

Provide input to the mid-term assessment of the European Roma Framework (NRIS) as a step for improving the remaining years of implementation until 2020 and for shaping post-2020 Roma policy.

### **Agenda**

#### **Rapporteurs**

Mirjam Karoly, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues/Chief of Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR

Jamen Gabriela Hrabanova, European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO) Network

#### **Moderator**

Ciprian Necula

#### **15:00-15:05: Introductory statement**

Barbara Spinelli MEP, GUE/NGL

#### **15:05-15:15: LERI and introduction video**

Sheena Keller, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

#### **15:10-16:00: Assessment of the EU Framework of NRIS**

Szabolcs Schmidt, Head of Unit, Non-discrimination and Roma coordination Unit, European Commission Directorate-General Justice and Consumers

Marie-Anne Paraskevas, ESF Coordination Unit, European Commission Directorate-General Employment and Social Affairs

Marta Garcia-Fidalgo, Advisor to the Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations in charge of coordination of Roma policy, European Commission Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations  
Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)  
Soraya Post MEP, S&D  
Belen Sanchez-Rubio, Fundacion Secretariado Gitano (FSG)  
Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Anthropologist

**16:00-17:00: Group discussions**

Group 1: Strengthening the fight against anti-gypsyism and anti-discrimination in NRIS  
Introducer: Lili Makaveeva  
Rapporteur: Ismael Cortes

Group 2: Mechanisms of cooperation with civil society and the Roma participation in the decision making in the policy processes of the EU Framework and NRIS.  
Introducers: Niki Kirilov  
Rapporteur: Martina Horvathova

Group 3: Improving the alignment of existing policies, programmes and other instruments in order to effectively implement measures related to four priority areas of NRIS education, health, employment and housing.  
Introducer: Florin Botonogu  
Rapporteur: Suad Skenderi

Group 4: Sufficient ESI and national funding to implement efficiently the EU Roma Framework (NRIS) up to and post 2020  
Introducer: Gelu Duminica  
Rapporteur: Stanislav Daniel

Group 5: Post 2020 in the EU for Roma: The way forward  
Introducer: Mensur Haliti  
Rapporteur: Gonzalo Montaña

**17:00-17:30: Plenary reporting**

Sub-group rapporteurs  
Szabolcs Schmidt, Head of Unit, Non-discrimination and Roma coordination Unit, European Commission Directorate-General Justice and Consumers  
Marina Albiol Guzmán MEP, GUE/NGL



**Roma week celebration: Informal gathering with music, drinks and finger-food**

*All people present in Brussels for the Roma week are invited to join*

Hosted by European Roma Grassroots Organisation Network (ERGO Network)

Date: 28/03/2017

Time: 20:00

Location: Mundo-B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels



## **Working breakfast between MEPs and Roma activists and representatives on political participation and youth**

Hosted by European Roma Grassroots Organisation Network (ERGO), ternYpe, Roma Active Albania and Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma

Date: 29/03/2017

Time: 08:00-09:45

Location: European Parliament Members restaurant

### **Objective**

The working breakfast aims to raise the participation of Roma youth, and to bring their voices and visions to the decision-makers. The grassroots youth activists from around Europe will share their concerns, challenges and realities, but also highlight how Roma youth self-organizations have become strong agents of change for their communities and societies. In particular, this year we want to raise a discussion between the youth activists and the Members of the European Parliament on how the political participation of Roma can be strengthened, and how political leaders across Europe can contribute to the fight against anti-gypsyism.

### **Agenda**

Each MEP will meet a small group of five to eight Roma youth activists from different countries for an informal but dedicated discussion.



## **Improving impact of EU funding and Roma integration policy in the enlargement region through partnership with Roma Civil Society**

Hosted by Benedek Javor MEP and Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations in cooperation with UNDP, World Bank and ERGO Network

Date: 29/03/2017

Time: 10:00-12:00

Location: European Parliament PHS 1C051

### **Objective**

To present the bases of the Roma integration policy inspiring the IPA multi-country assistance, discuss its effectiveness and agree on concrete follow up steps to strengthen the coordination and cooperation between different actors to increase the impact of EU funding for Roma on the Western Balkans and Turkey, with a special focus on the role of Roma Civil Society.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Rapporteur**

Ruus Dijksterhuis, European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO) Network

#### **Moderator**

Mustafa Jakupov, RROMA, Macedonia

#### **10:00-10:05: Introductory statement**

Benedek Javor MEP, Greens/EFA

#### **10:05-10:40: Introductory interventions**

Photo-presentation illustrating the state of art on local level and touches on a number of issues to be part of the discussion

Mr Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, UNDP

IPA multi-country policy dimensions and the role of the CSOs in the enlargement region

Marta Garcia-Fidalgo, Advisor to the Deputy Director-General for DG NEAR in charge of coordination of Roma policy,

How an independent Roma Civil Society can keep governments accountable and provide dedicated policy feedback

Adriatik Hasantari, Director Roma Active Albania

Strong evidence based policies make a difference, and how cooperation with CSOs in data collection can be strengthened

Valerie Morrica, World Bank

Empowered local and national governments as the necessary partners to achieve the implementation of successful integration policies

Aurora Ailincai, Council of Europe and Orhan Usein, Regional Cooperation Council Roma Integration 2020 Action Team

**10:40-11:00: Open discussion**

**11:00-11:45: Group discussions**

Group 1: Evidence based advocacy and policy making

Rapporteur: Sandor Karacsony, World Bank

Group 2: Creating strong accountability and transparency measures

Rapporteur: Ruus Dijksterhuis, European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO) Network

Group 3: Pooling expertise and information that empower all actors

Rapporteur: Orhan Usein, Regional Cooperation Council Roma Integration 2020 Action Team

**11:45-12:00: Plenary reporting**

Sub-group rapporteurs



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament



## **Challenging racism in court: Fighting school segregation and forced evictions**

Hosted by Peter Niedermüller MEP, Benedek Javor MEP and European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

Date: 29/03/2017

Time: 12:00-13:30

Location: European Parliament ASP 3H1

### **Objective**

Empowering Roma activists on using litigation tools to combat Antigypsyism - the power of litigation to affect change, to stop forced eviction and school segregation.

### **Agenda**

#### **Moderator**

Bernard Rorke, Advocacy Officer, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

#### **12:00-12:10: Introductory statements**

Péter Niedermüller MEP, S&D

Benedek Javor MEP, Greens/EFA

#### **12:10- 12:50: Forced Evictions and school segregation**

Adam Weiss, Managing Director, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

Senada Sali, Lawyer, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

Atanas Zahariev, Advocacy Officer, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

Catrinel Motoc, Amnesty International

Pia Lindholm, European Commission Directorate-General Justice and Consumers

Dorde Jovanovic, President, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

#### **12:50- 13:30: Open discussion**





Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament

## **Remembering the past & vindicating forgotten victims: Exchange of views with the Roma Holocaust survivors**

Hosted by S&D

Date: 29/03/2017

Time: 14:00-16:00

Location: European Parliament ASP 3G3

### **Objective**

Raising more awareness about the Roma Holocaust and strengthening calls for Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, and a Roma Holocaust Memorial Day.

### **Agenda**

#### **Moderator**

Tanja Fajon MEP, S&D

#### **14:00-14:05: Welcome speech**

Soraya Post MEP, S&D

#### **14:05-14:35: Testimony from survivors of the Roma Holocaust**

Rita Prigmore, Ambassador for Peace at Saint Egidio

Zoni Weisz

Romani Rose, President, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma

#### **14:35-15:00: Responses**

Tiina Astola, Director General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission Director General for Justice and Consumers

Thomas Hammarberg, Chair, Swedish Commission against anti-Gypsyism

Mirjam Karoly, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues/Chief of Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR

Brando Benifei MEP, S&D

#### **15:00-15:55: Open discussion**

#### **15:55-16:00: Closing remarks**

Tanja Fajon MEP, S&D

## **Exhibition and reception: 45 years of civil rights struggle of Sinti and Roma**

Hosted by Jutta Steinruck MEP and Central Council of German Sinti and Roma

Date: 03/04/2017

Time: 18:00

Location: European Parliament Strasbourg Main Hall Louise Weiss 1st floor

### **Objective**

The photo exhibition will be visible in Strasbourg from 3rd to 6th April; it shows on 20 panels key moments and actions of the civil rights struggle of Sinti and Roma of the last 45 years, such as the hunger strike in the former concentration camp Dachau, the struggle for the recognition of the Roma Genocide, and as a national minority. The exhibition gives recognition to the struggle of Holocaust survivors and of a younger generation of Roma activists, as well it highlights the continuous struggle against antigypsyism and for minority rights.