



**Suggested Questions
for the candidate European Commissioners
regarding Roma equality, inclusion, and participation
in the framework of European Parliament hearings in November 2024**

Hajda Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality

Implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework & Monitoring & Combating Antigypsyism and Strengthening Legal Protections

- How do you plan to ensure the effective implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation across all Member States, and what specific measures will you take to monitor and enforce compliance? Given that antigypsyism remains a significant concern across Europe, what concrete actions will you take to combat this form of racial discrimination, and how will you ensure that Member States actively work towards its elimination? Additionally, in line with your mission to defend, uphold, and safeguard the rights of minorities, how do you intend to operationalise this task to improve the situation of Roma communities? Will you push for a new, stronger anti-discrimination directive to address these issues?

Michael McGrath, Commissioner-designate for Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law

Fundamental Rights of Roma

- As Commissioner-designate for democracy, justice, and the rule of law, how do you plan to address the systemic challenges Roma communities face, particularly regarding segregation in education and housing, as well as disproportionate police violence? What concrete actions will you take to ensure that Member States comply with EU laws and standards on non-discrimination, and how will you strengthen accountability mechanisms to protect Roma communities from these violations?

Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President for People, Skills, and Preparedness

Synergies with the Union of Equality and Anti-Poverty Strategy

- As you guide the development of the EU's first Anti-Poverty Strategy, how will you ensure that the strategy aligns with the Union of Equality and adequately prioritises the Roma, who face poverty at rates of over 80%? What specific measures will you implement to ensure the strategy works in conjunction with the EU Roma Framework?

Education, Skills, and Digitalisation for Roma

- How will you ensure that upcoming education, skills, and digitalisation initiatives effectively address the needs of Roma communities, who experience significant gaps in educational attainment and access to digital resources? What specific provisions will you introduce to bridge the digital divide and improve Roma participation in education and employment opportunities?



Marta Kos, Commissioner for Enlargement

Roma Inclusion in EU Enlargement Criteria and Combating Antigypsyism

- How will you ensure Roma inclusion and the fight against antigypsyism are integral to the EU enlargement criteria for candidate countries? What specific steps will you take to ensure local governments and civil society collaborate to protect Roma communities from discrimination and hate crimes?

Monitoring EU Funds and Roma Civil Society Engagement

- How will you monitor the use of EU funds for Roma inclusion in candidate countries to ensure their effective allocation and prevent misuse? What role will Roma civil society organisations play in the enlargement process under your leadership to ensure their voices are included in policy decisions?

Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups and Innovation

Equal Access for Roma Youth in Education and Innovation

- How will you ensure that Roma youth have equal access to educational and career opportunities in research and innovation across the EU? What specific programs or initiatives will you implement to close the educational attainment gap and foster the inclusion of Roma youth in these fields?

Engagement of Roma Communities in Research Initiatives

- How do you plan to engage Roma communities in research and innovation projects that tackle societal challenges, particularly those related to social inclusion and equality? Will you support targeted research initiatives aimed at understanding the challenges Roma communities face and developing innovative solutions for their inclusion?

Glenn Micallef, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport

Promotion of Roma Culture and Heritage

- What concrete steps will you take to ensure Roma culture and heritage are recognised, preserved, and promoted within the EU's cultural programs, integrating them into the broader European cultural narrative?

Inclusion of Roma Youth in EU Youth Policies

- How will you ensure that Roma youth are actively represented in developing and implementing EU youth policies, and what measures will you introduce to engage Roma youth in the Commission's youth dialogue, addressing their current exclusion?

Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms

Effective Use of EU Cohesion Funds for Roma Inclusion

- How will you ensure that EU Cohesion Funds are effectively allocated to projects that address socio-economic disparities faced by Roma communities? What strategies will you employ to monitor the effectiveness and impact of these investments, ensuring equitable access to public services like healthcare, education, and housing?



Roma Civil Society and Regional Integration in Cohesion Policies

- How do you plan to collaborate with local authorities and Roma civil society organisations to ensure Roma inclusion is prioritised in regional development plans and EU Cohesion and Reform policies? What steps will you take to integrate their perspectives in the decision-making process and urban planning initiatives?

Magnus Brunner, Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration

Ensuring Roma Rights in Migration and Integration Policies

- As Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration, how do you plan to address the intersection of Roma inclusion with your migration, security, and border management mandates? Specifically, what actions will you take to ensure that Roma communities are not disproportionately impacted by migration and border management policies, particularly in the context of the ongoing situation in Ukraine? How will you safeguard their rights across these sectors to ensure equitable treatment and protection?