



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN ON IMPROVING
THE SITUATION OF ROMA AND SINTI**

**dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the
2003 OSCE Action Plan
7-8 November 2013, Vienna**

EU statement – Closing session

This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting brought to our attention and, in many cases, reconfirmed the pressing issues that Roma and Sinti are confronted with throughout the OSCE area. It also reconfirmed the urgency of addressing many of these problems which, by affecting Roma and Sinti, affect our societies as a whole and have a negative impact on the entire OSCE area.

As we mentioned in our opening statement, Roma and Sinti inclusion is a topic of growing interest for the EU at the highest political level. The EU Member States elaborated and are currently implementing Roma inclusion strategies or sets of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies, especially via improving access to: education, employment, healthcare and housing. The Fundamental Rights Agency has also increased its research and survey activities with regard to Roma and Sinti, providing useful data on general, as well as particular aspects of the issues pertaining to the situation of Roma and Sinti. We will continue to take resolute action to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti and contribute actively to the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan and all other OSCE commitments with regard to Roma and Sinti.

We welcome the Status Report launched on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Action Plan. It is an extremely useful tool for identifying mid-term trends in a vast array of issues of relevance for the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area. This document published for the second time is, in many respects, a sobering call for action to remedy persisting problems, as well as address new challenges that Roma and Sinti are confronted with. We will analyse in-depth its results and recommendations and look forward to capitalize on the findings of this document in the future in the OSCE and beyond. We also hope that with the political will of all of participating States, activities of their national and local authorities and with involvement of Roma communities the next report will show more promising trends and progress in the area of improving situation of Roma and Sinti. We believe that the regular publication of this type of document should become standard practice. We call on all participating States to contribute to ODIHR's efforts to compile information on the implementation of the Action Plan, including for the purposes of the Status Report.

We welcome the participation of civil society in great numbers, we believe it is one of the success indicators of this event. We look forward to equally fruitful exchanges of views on this topic with civil society representatives in the framework of HDIM and other OSCE events. We commend the fact that this SHDM has been a forum for exchanges of good practices to be used by the participants.

The European Union welcomes the many useful recommendations resulted from this SHDM and we look forward to the follow-up to this event in the Human Dimension Committee, at HDIM and in the actual implementation of the Action Plan throughout the OSCE area.

This event has highlighted the particular challenges faced by Roma and Sinti women and girls, also as a follow-up to last year's discussions in the framework of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Special Day, as well as the challenges faced by youth, including in the field of education. We believe that these discussions constitute ample basis for moving forward our current negotiations on a Ministerial Council draft decision that we are committed to steer towards the adoption of a robust decision at the Kyiv Ministerial Council on the implementation of the Action Plan, with a particular focus on Roma and Sinti women and girls and youth.

Thank you for your attention.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

** the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*