

**Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia – Right of Reply
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2015
Working Session 16 - Tolerance and non-discrimination I (continued),
including: - Roma and Sinti issues, including: Implementation of the
OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti
(1.10.2015)**

Thank you Madam moderator for giving me the opportunity to exercise the right of reply on behalf of the Macedonian delegation in reference to a number of remarks made by the distinguished representatives of the civil society concerning the situation of Roma in Macedonia.

First of all allow me to reiterate that Macedonia fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the European Union.

Domestically, let me underline that many efforts have been undertaken in the past aimed at remedying the vulnerable situation of the Roma.

The main policy papers in this area are the National Strategy for the Roma in the Republic of Macedonia for the period 2014 – 2020 and the 2005-2015 Decade of Roma Inclusion. Implementation activities are focused on National Action Plans in areas of education, housing, health care, and employment.

As regards to the mentioned Strategy for Integrated Education, its importance has been stressed on numerous occasions. Macedonia highly appreciates the cooperation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities Mrs. Astrid Thors in regard to its implementation. The Republic of Macedonia will continue to work and undertake concrete activities to ensure long-term cohesion of the Macedonian society.

I thank you.