

Delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria

Working Session 7

Roma/Sinti and, in particular, empowerment of Roma women

RIGHT OF REPLY

Delivered by Mrs. Tatyana Muhlova
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, September 27, 2012

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

I would like to thank the Delegation of the United States of America for drawing attention in its statement this morning to some aspects of the rights of Roma in Bulgaria.

The US Delegation referred to the latest amendments to the Law on Civil Registration, adopted in May 2012 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

My delegation wishes to make the following clarifications:

Those amendments stipulate that in order to arrange their address registration Bulgarian citizens, including Roma, may submit not only documents of ownership or tenant agreements, but other documents in order to prove the use of the housing units such as contracts for electricity or central heating supplies, contracts for water delivery and sanitation. In the cases when the inhabitants of such units are unable to submit the above stated documents, the amendments to the law provide for the setting by the mayor of the municipality of a commission to take a decision on the address registrations. Members of the commission are officials from the municipality, the Agency for Social Support and the territorial department of the Ministry of Interior.

The amendments to the Law on Civil Registration enable all those Bulgarian citizens, including Bulgarian citizens of Roma origin, who have not been in a possession of identity documents due to the unarranged address registration in the past, to apply for and to receive identity documents.

Thank you!