



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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6th Session

Right to Reply- Slovenia

First of all I would like to thank Amnesty International for their intervention made at today's session. As always Slovenia is committed to study and take into consideration complaints and comments made by NGOs related to the situation of the Roma population in Slovenia, especially regarding the integration of Roma children into the educational system. Slovenia is fully aware of the importance of this issue. I will duly inform the Slovenian authorities about the discussion held today at this meeting and we will be pleased to discuss these issues further with Amnesty International and other concerned NGOs.

Nevertheless, I would like to explain some positive proactive measures that the Slovenian authorities have already taken in order to promote and improve the integration of Roma children into the Slovenian educational system.

- It can be said that in school year 2007/2008 all Roma children in Slovenia were enrolled in elementary schools (1.658 children). Not one single special class with only Roma children exists in Slovenia.
- A network of schools in which Roma children are educated together with other children has been established. These schools share good practices among themselves and regular training programmes for teachers are taking place.
- Since 2007 a voluntary non-obligatory course titled "Roma Culture" is offered in elementary schools in Slovenia and is financed by the Slovenian government.
- A project of professional Roma assistants has been approved in 2008 and is financed through EU funds. The project is carried out by the Roma Union of Slovenia and is in place already this school year (there are about 30 Roma assistants working in different schools around Slovenia). One of the most important tasks of the Roma assistant is to increase attendance and ensure regular presence of Roma children in schools. They help Roma children if they have problems with studying, homework and understanding of language. The Roma assistants represent an important link between the school and the families of Roma children.
- The Slovenian authorities have ensured additional financial means for the implementation of measures necessary for better integration of Roma pupils, for example preparation of teaching materials for the Romany language and projects to enhance awareness of the Roma culture.