

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

OSCE Permanent Council No. 805

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EU statement on the occasion of International Roma Day

On the occasion of the International Roma Day, celebrated on the 8th of April, the European Union calls for intensified efforts to address the challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Roma and Sinti issues have gained increasing importance for the EU, reflected in the outcomes of the European Council in December 2007, subsequent Council conclusions and European Parliament resolutions. Currently, the EU is addressing the situation of Roma and Sinti from a comprehensive perspective which includes, inter-alia: EU legislation for combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination; efforts to mainstream Roma and Sinti issues into all relevant policies; the European Platform for Roma Inclusion; dedicated activities in the framework of 2010 - European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion; collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the situation of Roma by the Fundamental Rights Agency; strengthening the partnership among all relevant actors and increasing the ownership of Roma of policies affecting them.

The comprehensive approach taken by the EU in dealing with Roma and Sinti issues reflects the commitments undertaken by the EU Member States, including in the framework of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area.

The European Union celebrated International Roma Day during the second Roma Summit in Cordoba, on the 8th of April. On this occasion, the Trio Presidency of the European Union (Spain, Belgium, Hungary) committed itself to maintain Roma and Sinti issues high on its agenda, including by advancing the mainstreaming of Roma issues in European and national policies, improving the design of a road map of the Integrated Platform on Roma Inclusion, standing up firmly against stigmatization.

We reiterate, on this occasion, our firm determination to continue efforts for the full implementation of all OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including the OSCE Action Plan and the relevant ministerial decisions adopted during the Finnish and Greek OSCE Chairmanships.

We commend the work of OSCE institutions, notably the ODIHR/Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and the High Commissioner on National Minorities in advancing the implementation of the Action Plan and in assisting participating States to this end.

The European Union stands ready to increase its cooperation with the OSCE for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y

HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que UCRANIA, la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIYÁN y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.