

Right of Reply Exercised
Response of the Czech Republic
to Statements by the United States of America and the Russian Federation
at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 16: Humanitarian Issues and other commitments II
October 3, 2013

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to briefly reply to the statements of the delegations of the United States of America and the Russian Federation made during this session.

As it was emphasized in our national statement, we are firmly committed to improving the overall conditions of the Roma population living in the Czech Republic, notably in the area of education, social housing, unemployment, or recent cases of social unrest.

The Czech Republic is fully aware of the danger resulting from the escalation of violence and manifestation of hatred in two Czech cities, Duchcov and České Budějovice, in particular. In this regard, several important measures have been adopted, which significantly enhanced security of residents of these cities. In general, a professional approach of the police and their work at the time of unrest was highly appreciated by all relevant stakeholders, including local Roma community.

Moreover, the Ministry of Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic have taken a number of preventive measures in regards to possible future extremists' activities. The Ministry of Interior, municipalities, police forces and Roma community closely cooperate in cases of assemblies and manifestations which may cause harm. Each planned assembly has to be announced to the municipal authority and may be prohibited within three working days from the date of the announcement. To give a specific example, an assembly planned to take place in České Budějovice on 14 September 2013 was banned by the respective municipal authority, as there were reasons to believe that the assembly could incite hatred against Roma.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.