



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Permanent Council Nr 908 Vienna, 19 April 2012**

#### **EU statement on the occasion of the International Roma Day**

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On the occasion of the International Roma Day, celebrated on 8 April, the European Union reiterates its call for resolute efforts to address the challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Since 2007, the European Union has stepped up its commitments and actions to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti. In June 2011, our Heads of States and Governments called for the rapid implementation of Council Conclusions on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration strategies up to 2020. By the end of March 2012, EU Member States had devised concrete strategies or policy measures for improving the situation of the Roma.

We commend the work of OSCE institutions, notably the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, in advancing the implementation of the OSCE commitments and assisting participating States to this end. We are pleased to see enhanced dialogue and cooperation between CPRSI and the European Union, as well as between CPRSI and OSCE participating States at expert level.

On this occasion, EU Member States reiterate their firm determination to fully implement all OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including the

Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area. We look forward to the discussions related to the Empowerment of Roma Women at this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.