

**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
Warsaw, 28 September to 9 October 2009**

**Working session 14: Roma/Sinti and, in particular,
early education for Roma and Sinti children**

Wednesday, 7 October 2009

Delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria

S T A T E M E N T

in the exercise of the right to reply

The fact that in some neighborhoods of certain towns and villages particular schools are attended predominantly by pupils of Roma origin is an unintended consequence of the demographic processes and of the internal migration in Bulgaria within the last two decades. There are also some reasons which come from the previous administrative structure of the school system.

However, it is important to underline, that for more than 10 years, systematic efforts have been exerted for educational integration of Roma in Bulgaria. Competent central and local authorities and a variety of NGOs participate in this process. The positive results are visible on local level, particularly in places like Vidin, Lom, Yambol, Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo, etc., though not all expectations of the society are yet met throughout the country.

In Bulgaria, during the last years, a well-defined and organized system is in place to distinguish who among children, irrespective of their ethnic origin, should attend the so-called special schools. The list of those pupils is approved by the Minister of education, youth and science, after consultations with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs.

The Bulgarian delegation stands ready to further discuss the issue and provide additional information.

Dr. Georgi Krastev

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