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Statement on Roma people

Greece

Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take the opportunity given to me today to refer to a social category the Roma people. This is a social group of people with many differences among its population. Differences, which mostly touches the economic sector cause isolation to every aspect of social life. That is creating a greater gap between themselves and the rest of the society. A part of the Roma people sees opportunity to knowledge and productive life and work force. While the isolated group, is unable to reach those basic goods and enjoy the equivalent level of living of the rest of the population, being Roma or not. Our focus and care has to be designated to the ones that do not make it and that cannot reach the goods of the modern, functional economy has to offer. And find themselves struggling for survival or even in some cases turn to antisocial behaviours in order to survive. These are the people that need help that need guidance, that need humanitarian action. Our vision needs to embrace the ones that have no water, the ones that are struggling for food, the ones that have not shelter to stay in. These situations are very shameful for our society, our European society as a whole. These are images that flatter no one ethically, practically since both sides suffer. The one side being as a drop out of society and the other side acting as if they don't exist, or wishing they would vanish. Such cases have been widely seen recently from speeches in the public sphere from public figures, reporters, politicians striving to grasp added value from hate speech that reminds us rhetorical schemes of hate speech in the dawn of the Second World War. We are not to blame either side or

the ones being neglected from the society or the ones having some annoyance and follow the hate speech trend.

What is needed sound and clear is no other than social peace. The only one able to fulfill this task is no other than the state itself. In that order we need to see the fulfillment of the international agreements having been signed, and to embrace every helping hand ready, willing and able to contribute to the rehabilitation of the dignity and wellbeing of the Roma people and our European society in general.

To this journey, every national state should accept as a companion the European acquis on human rights and freedoms.

It is a basic human right of every human being to enjoy life, to enjoy freedom, be equal with others socially and legally and the Roma people is a group of people that seems to have fallen behind on that matter. Let's make it change.

Thank you very much for your attention!