



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 876
Vienna, 28 July 2011**

EU statement on the occasion of the remembrance for the Roma and Sinti genocide

The EU recalls the commitments undertaken within the OSCE to promote remembrance and education about the tragedy of the Holocaust and to give particular consideration to the experience of Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust in the framework of education on Roma culture and history. In this context, we would like to refer to the initiative of the Presidency of the EU and ODIHR, together with representatives of the Roma, to organise an event to commemorate and remember the victims and to spread knowledge about the Roma and Sinti genocide in the context of anti-racist and anti-discriminatory education. This event will take place on 1 and 2 August in Krakow and at the site of the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The commemorations will include a ceremonial site meeting dedicated to the memory of the Roma and Sinti victims of World War II, as well as the international seminar - "The Roma and Sinti Genocide: Memory, Identity, and Present Day Racism", dedicated to presenting knowledge about the Holocaust of Roma and Sinti and issues regarding the use of tragic historical events in education to combat phenomena of discrimination, xenophobia and racism in today's Europe. The culmination of the commemorations will be a ceremony at the main memorial of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

The event will also include a presentation of the Roma and Sinti genocide website launched this year by the ODIHR and the Council of Europe as a teaching tool. We welcome this initiative and all other activities carried out by ODIHR that are aimed at promoting remembrance of and providing instruction on the Roma and Sinti genocide.

We take this opportunity to commend the concrete steps taken by participating States to raise awareness of, commemorate and teach about the Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti. We also encourage efforts to ensure that memorial sites are maintained in order to allow for unimpeded and dignified remembrance. We recall that, earlier this year, the European Parliament held a special commemoration of the victims of the Porrajmos, the Roma and Sinti genocide, during World War II, in conjunction with the International Remembrance Day of the Holocaust.

We reiterate, on this occasion, our firm determination to further the efforts for the full implementation of all OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area. We encourage co-operation among the OSCE, the EU and the Council of Europe in this field. We look forward to the in-depth discussion on Enhancing the Implementation of Commitments related to Roma and Sinti at this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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