

**ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw, Poland  
2-11 October 2006  
Questions for the session 15**

**Tolerance and non discrimination II  
Roma/Sinti; Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti Issues**

**Romani CRISS<sup>1</sup> address the following questions to the OSCE Delegations:**

In a comment letter circulated through the European Parliament e-mail services, the Bulgarian Euro-Observer comments in relation with the nomination of Hungarian MEP of Romani origin Livia Járóka to the "European Voice, Most Active MEP awards 2006". While referring to Ms. Járóka, Mr. Stoyanov proves his strongly convictions about why the Roma MEP shouldn't be nominated for the award:

*"In my country [Bulgaria e.n.] there're tenths of thousands gypsy girls way more beautiful than this honorable one. In fact if you're in the right place on the right time you even can buy one (around 12-13 years old) to be your loving wife. The best of them are very expensive - up to 5 000 euros a piece, wow!"*

We welcome Bulgarian Parliament official position, however we are concerned about the increased stereotyped language used in describing Romani women which enhance the anti gypsyism and endanger the involvement of Romani men and women in public life.

Question:

Considering the article 40 of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE and the articles no. 9, 19, 96 and 98 of the OSCE Action Plan on improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area and the article IV.41 of the OSCE Action Plan for promoting gender equality in participating States.

Take into consideration that the attack against the Roma MEP is hard evidence of racism and a clear expression of multiple discrimination faced by Romani women, namely ethnicity and gender.

**Kindly provide information about concrete cases of penalties imposed on officials who engage in discriminatory practices and hate speeches against Roma in the OSCE Area.**

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<sup>1</sup> As an organization that militates for the defense and promotion of human rights, Romani CRISS has documented and intervened in cases of torture, violence and abuse committed by law enforcement officials, as well as cases of discrimination and abuse in the field of education, health or housing in Romania.

We would like to draw your attention to the States Delegations present at the HD Meeting on the situation of Roma, especially in South Eastern Europe countries.