



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE**

**2011 HDIM, Warsaw 26 September-7 October**

**Working Session 15**

**Enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti**

**Statement by the Macedonian Delegation**

Madame Moderator,

Republic of Macedonia has made concrete positive steps and is one of the countries that showed readiness to promote principle of active protection of the Roma rights, through proper legislation and providing concrete institutional protection necessary for their fulfillment.

The improvement of the position of the Roma population is one of the highest priorities of our country, enshrined in the National Strategy on Roma and national action plans within the Roma Decade.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia has dedicated significant resources for the improvement of Romani position, regularly conducting numerous activities in this regard.

In 2005 Macedonia have joined the International initiative “ Decade on inclusion of Roma 2005-2015” and for that purpose the National Strategy as well as numerous actions plans were realized in the field of education, housing, health care and employment, for better and deeper inclusion of the Roma in the society.

In March this year, Macedonian Parliament has adopted a political Declaration on improving the situation of Roma in the country.

Macedonia is among the highest ranked states in regard of the Roma population inclusion in the society and respect of their minority rights.

Since 1 of July this year, Macedonia is chairing the decade of Roma.

However, despite the progress, there is room for more to be done. We, as OSCE participating states, should invest more in solving the existing problems, fully implement our national laws and finally include the Roma population into our societies.

In this context, in Macedonia the focus of action is directed towards long term planning of activities, reinforcing institutional structure and financial support for their implementation and better coordination of all governmental and non-governmental institutions.

This concrete dedication and help for the support of Roma population in Macedonia resulted in increasing trust and confidence to the state and its institution, restoring the hopes for better life and future.

Let me remind, that during the Macedonian presidency with the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in 2010, Macedonia strongly supported and was directly involved in the overall efforts of CoE, with the aim of building proactive, coherent and coordinated approach among the members states for resolution of the problems of Roma population in European countries.

Romani people are part of the Macedonian high level political and institutional life, as well. For example, one of the Ministers in the Prime Ministers cabinet is belonging to Roma population.

Finally, Macedonia is probably by now the first OSCE participating state that in close cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje has produced the Status Report on improving the situation of the Roma and Sinti population in the OSCE area. This valuable report was publicly promoted on 8 of April this year by all relevant stakeholders in Macedonia.

We believe that Macedonia represents an example that should be followed broader.

I thank you for your attention.