

Right of Reply by Romania

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 16: (specifically selected topic) Roma and Sinti

Thank you, Mr Moderator

We wish to exercise our right of reply to the statements made during this session by a representative of the Asociatia Comunitara a Romilor din Coastei and we wish to state the following:

First, Roma are recognized as a national minority in Romania. The Romanian Constitution fully recognizes the Roma along with the other 18 national minorities and they fully exercise their cultural, linguistic, political and civic rights according to the international legal framework for the protection of the right of persons belonging to national minorities.

Second, I would like to mention that the Roma are represented in the Romanian Parliament (2 deputies). Following 2016 local elections, members of the Roma political parties were elected at local level (1 mayor and 253 local councillors, representing Roma local communities). The Prime Minister appointed a state counsellor for Roma issues in July 2017. Also, the position of the President of the National Agency for Roma, as a central governmental institution for Roma is another example. There is a strong representation of Roma within the national agencies and governmental institutions at high level.

We highly appreciate that a newly established mainstream political party is promoting candidates from minority groups such as Roma, LGBT and disabled persons and we deeply value their activity and recommendations.