

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2016

Right of Reply Exercised

Response of the Czech Republic to the Statements of Ms. Gwendolyn Albert

Working Session 16: Rights of the child

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to thank Ms. Gwendolyn Albert for her valuable recommendations regarding the education of Romani children in the Czech Republic.

As it was emphasized in our national statement delivered yesterday afternoon, the Czech Government has recently adopted amendments to the Education Act, aiming at achieving inclusive education of all children and equal access to education for all children, including Romani children. I also mentioned that the measures have been in force since the beginning of this month. Therefore the first precise data on the enrollment of children in accordance with the amendment will be available only next month, after the primary schools update their enrollment information in the central information system.

Also I would like to recall that in May 2016 the Czech Parliament approved one more measure aimed at inclusive education of all children. According to this measure the last year of the pre-school education should be compulsory and free of charge for all children, including Romani children, starting from 1 September of the next year.

Thank you for your attention.