

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2008
Session 6: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I
2 October 2008

Czech Republic
Statement in exercise of Right of Reply

Thank you Mr Moderator.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding the rights of ethnic minorities, especially Roma minority, the Government of the Czech Republic is aware of the need to continue its efforts and through number of initiative strives to eliminate all forms of discrimination against or exclusion of individuals or groups defined by their race, nationality or language. A new anti-discrimination law has been drafted, and is currently awaiting its approval in the Parliament.

A focused attention is being paid to the reduction of unemployment, improvement of housing situation and health in Roma communities, and prevention of their social exclusion.

With full respect to the relevant decision of the European Court of Human Rights of November last year, the Government of the Czech Republic has devised a number of individual and general measures to remedy the identified education-related discrimination of Roma children.

In January 2008, the Government established Agency for Social Inclusion of Roma Communities. Full integration of Roma children in the field of education is one of the objectives of the new Agency, and a number of projects addressing this problem through activities such as pre-school education, teacher-parent co-operation and individual tutoring, are under preparation.

The Ministry of Education is finalizing its work on a new Action plan bringing a complex set of measures to be implemented in the following months. These measures will be aimed at complete elimination of discrimination of Roma children when exercising their right to education. The approval of the Action plan is expected in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your attention.