

OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE
Working Session 7 – Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I ENGLISH only

SUPPLEMENT OF THE VERBAL INTERVENTION

Statement of Mr. Juan de Dios Ramirez Heredia

UNION ROMANI SPAIN on behalf of European based Roma NGOs present in Warsaw

We, Roma men and woman across Europe, have met in Warsaw, under the auspices of invitation made by OSCE CPRSI, and in view of the crisis being faced by the Roma people in Europe, caused mainly by the discriminatory and repressive actions taken in some member states of the European Union, declare the following

1. We unanimously express our support to the resolution of the European Parliament adopted on September 2010. We, Roma men and woman from across Europe consider to be represented and defended by these resolutions do accept it as our own and we are grateful.
2. We, the Roma men and woman from European Union, are so Roma as much as Europeans and so Europeans as much as Roma. A Europe without borders which expresses clearly the new conception of a territory, is the European Roma has always existed in history and traditions of Roma people worldwide.
3. We, European Roma men and woman, want to express our gratitude to the European institutions for their support that they have given to our justified demands, but we want to manifest that we do not authorize the social and cultural policies which are carried out without our presence and consent. It is about the time that, once and for all, that we, the Roma become the protagonists of our destiny and administrators of our freedom.
4. The anti-Roma aggressions carried out recently by the Italian government and now by French government, deserve our most forceful rejection. In these countries, the human rights of our community are violated, the international agreements and treaties these countries have signed have been Trans segregated, and such deeds ignore the Charter of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the new European Constitution adopted in Lisbon in December 2009.
5. The Assembly of European based Roma NGOs gathered in Warsaw are aware of the dire consequences of our community that have been taken by the French government, we agreed to create a small group of experts to study from the angle of public international law and Community law, the possibilities to impeach the French government to the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg.

6. Similarly, from here, we condemn and denounce the violent and bloody attacks that our people are suffering in other European countries. What is happening in Italy and France should not obscure the tragedy of the persecution of our brothers in Hungary, in Czech Republic, in Slovakia and lately in Kosovo following the policy of deportations carried out by the German government and other member states of European Union.
7. The Roma men and woman, who met in Warsaw, we thank the media around the world, the brave and resolute stance they have taken in defense to our violated human rights. This position encourages us in our struggle and makes us conceive the hope that someday the racists, the intolerants, the fascists and the Nazis will be defeated.
8. We also want to appeal to all democratic political forces to ally to our cause. In defense of human rights there is space for all European democrats, whether from left or right wing, liberal or conservative. In this task, the only adversaries are the racists; extremists of any sign that do not believe in the supreme value of the word, but put their strength in violence, crime and the marginalization of our families.
9. Finally we extend from here, from Warsaw which one day witnessed the largest deportation of a human group that ended in the Holocaust, our hope for a better world where the youth of today, consisting of Roma and Gadjé - and where Roma women took every day and more relevant role – recognize the dawn of justice and freedom where Roma and Gadjé would be able to walk together along the path of peace and solidarity.