

Roma Decade Steering Committee

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Decade and the role of the European Commission

- 2004 Roma largest minority, but faces exclusion
- Decade Roma Inclusion is key tool to address, has a potential to serve as policy framework
- Reason for Commission supports the Decade's mission

Decade and the role of the European Commission 2

- 2005 Commission's support was materialised with Commissioner Hubner and Spidla – lately further strengthened
- EC does its best to transform it to implementation
- The commitments of the Decade countries' heads of government is impressive
- The high level implication of national government representatives
 - mark an unprecedented commitment,
 - shows political will for action on Roma inclusion,
 - projects to take it forward to implementation

Decade and the role of the European Commission 3

- The EC fully supports the decade progress and observes its development with great interest
- Lately the Decade Watch initiative was presented at the ISG on Roma

Next steps:

- EC looks forward to the full report and the materialised results of strategy implementation.
- Tangible results will allow the Decade and the EC to further strengthen co-operation

Commission Activities in the Roma field

- Theory

- Practice

Theory

- **General Regulations** – considerable involvement, mention
- **SF**: ESF, ERDF ... trans-national co-operation
- **Anti-discrimination law** – basic principle for Roma inclusion

(most advanced legal framework in fighting against discrimination on racial and ethnic minorities)

- 10 years, need to act against discrimination formally recognised in the Treaty
- 1st step to translate commitment: 2000/43
- screening the transposition

Practice

- Year of Equal Opportunities – Awareness raising on people's rights
- training of NGOs, judges, lawyers
- stop discrimination campaign
- Training business, youngsters
- Exchange b/w equality bodies-public, legal experts reports

Commission Activities in the Roma field

- Structural Funds – ESF, ERDF... - most efficient way to support Roma inclusion, coordinated by:
- Inter Service Group on Roma – OSI+Roma Decade contributed useful presentations
- High Level Group on Ethnic minorities' Integration to the Labour market
 - end 2007 report highlights practical way to use EU policies and programmes to promote integration of ethnic minorities and Roma

Commission Activities in the Roma field 2

- Network Roma NGO
- Equal/Progress
- Positive actions
- EESC report
- Cooperation with the Decade of Roma Inclusion

Conclusion

- Amongst EC activities – synergies with the Roma Decade

For the next steps:

- EC looks forward to the full report and the materialised results of strategy implementation.
- Tangible results will allow the Decade and the EC to further strengthen co-operation
- DecadeWatch is most welcomed by the Commission
- The Commission fully supports the Decade's progress and observes its development with great interest.



Thank you