



# ***The European Commission's approach to Roma inclusion 2008-2010 and the Roma Platform***



## ***Meeting of the ISC Roma Decade***

***Joachim Ott***  
European Commission  
DG for Employment, Social affairs and Equal opportunities

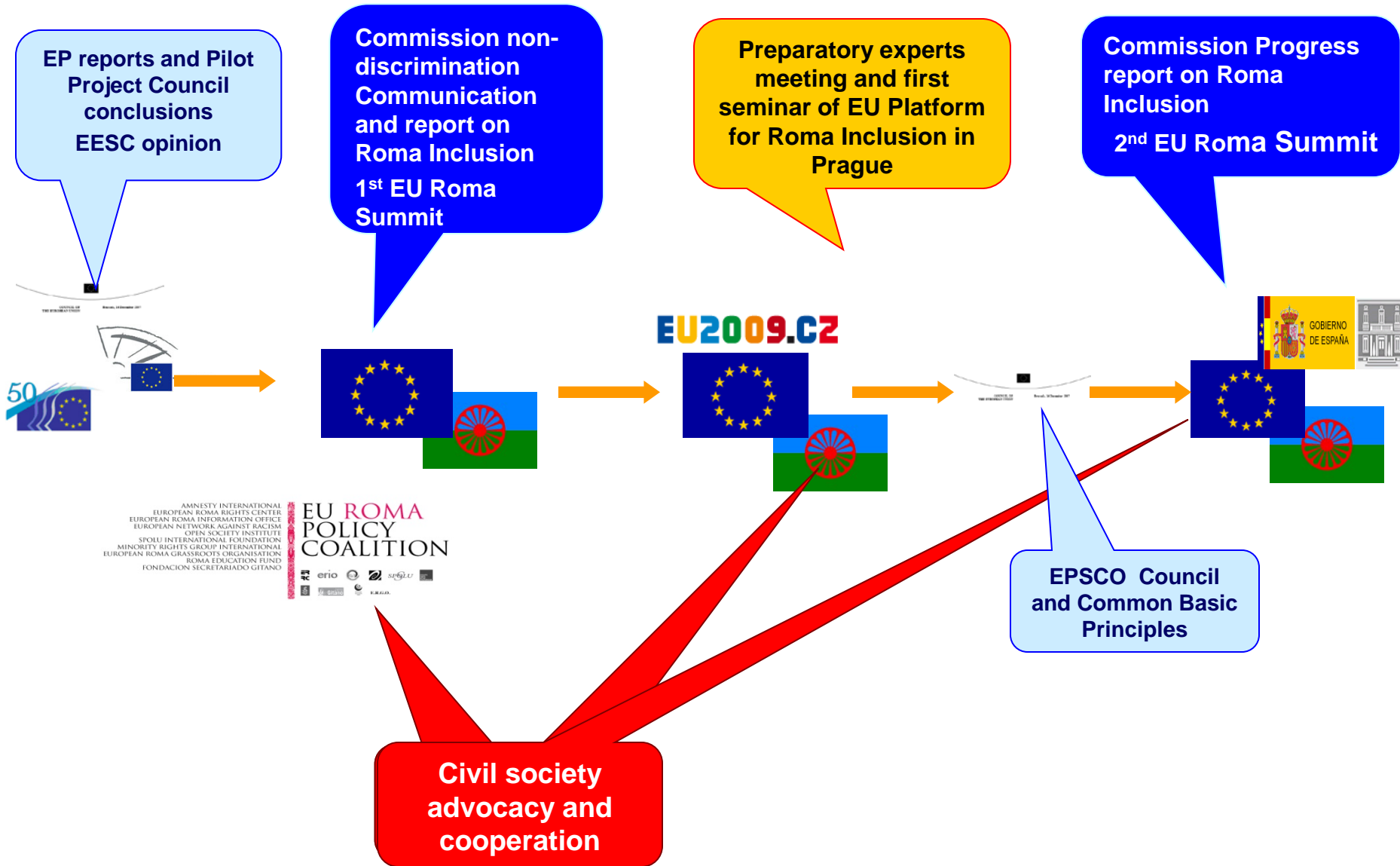
Belgrade, June 25-26, 2009





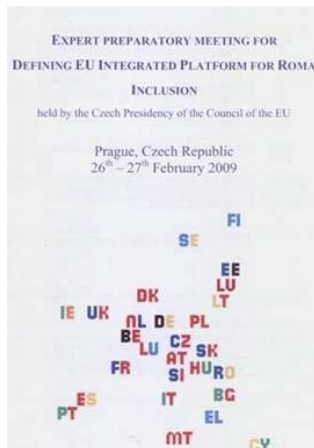
- ✓ Political commitment of EU and Member States to address the issue at Community level and implement action at national level
- ✓ Member States' commitment
- ✓ Mandate for the Commission
- ✓ Commission's willingness to lead, coordinate and support
- ✓ Common Basic Principles to be embedded in all policies
- ✓ Integration of Roma aspects in structural policies

# Developments 2008-2010

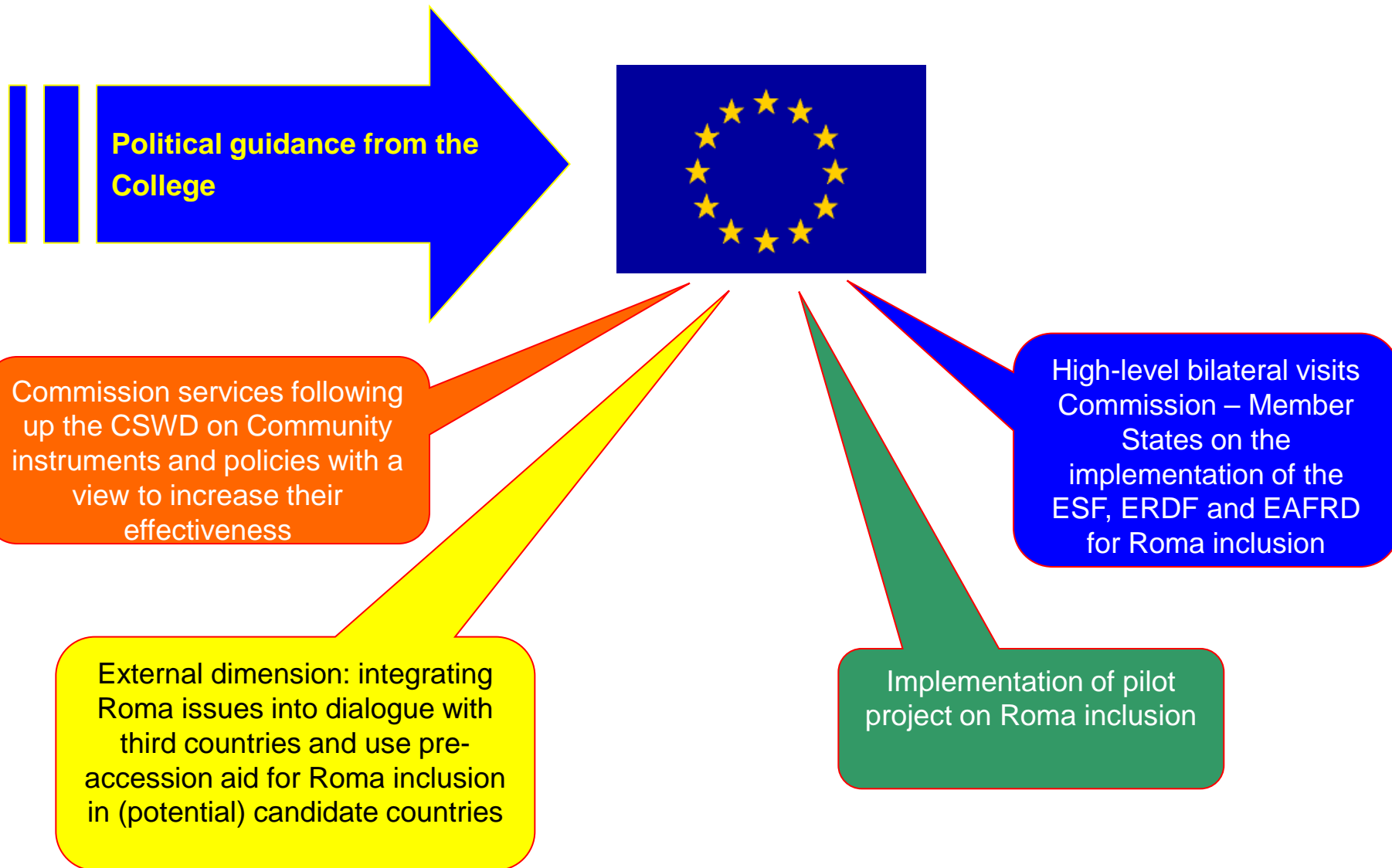




- Platform as a **process** driven by stakeholders (EU institutions, committed Member States, international organizations and civil society) and their actions
- Key roles of EU **Presidencies**: maintain political momentum in Council work and through EU Roma Summits and platform events
- **European Commission** is willing to lead by example as key stakeholder through action and deliverance of tangible results
- **Basic principles** as key for success: development of Common Basic Principles by Czech Presidency
- Need for complementary and mutually reinforcing **action** undertaken by the Member States and the EU in the limits of their **competencies**



# Policy content from Commission to platform process





## Rights and legal instruments

- enforcement of existing legislation
- support of awareness-raising and capacity building for practitioners (i.a. lawyers, NGOs, trade unions)
- enhancement of knowledge about rights
- support of cooperation among Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

## Policy analysis, coordination and financial support

- review of effectiveness of projects and policies for Roma inclusion
- examination of situation of Roma women
- integrating Roma aspect in mainstream policy processes
- addressing issue of data collection
- promotion of cooperation between Member States
- definition of specific initiatives for the inclusion of Roma
- promotion of using the Structural Funds for inclusion of Roma
- capacity building of Roma (and non-Roma) civil society
- identification and dissemination of good practice

## Governance

- monitoring the progress on the ground in close cooperation with civil society and local actors
- communicating the problems, possible solutions and success factors for improving Roma inclusion





**ERRC study on projects, programmes and policies**  
2009/2010

- Identify successful models for Roma inclusion policies
- Identify the characteristics of successful programmes and projects
- Formulate recommendations

**Commission progress report to 2<sup>nd</sup> EU Roma Summit**  
April 8, 2010  
Cordoba

**Informal Contact Group**

**Cooperation with international organizations and civil society**



**Sessions of the working groups of the EUROMA in 2009/2010**



- ✓ The approach of the **platform** as driven by **concrete action** and precise commitments from stakeholders has the potential to make change happen
- ✓ The **Common Basic Principles** can serve as a political orientation for EU institutions and Member States and support them in stepping up their commitments
- ✓ The Commission delivers on its **commitment** to follow up the analysis of Community instruments and policies and make them more effective for Roma inclusion
- ✓ This follow up process is **on track** and will **deliver results** by the next EU Roma Summit
- ✓ The combination of a **targeted and a mainstreaming approach** is an important success factor
- ✓ Reporting in the **media** and thus an effective **communication strategy** has a crucial impact

