



SPANISH POSITION IN RELATION TO THE DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION REFORM PROPOSAL AFTER 2015

Spain has been a member of the Decade of Roma Inclusion since 2009, when by signing the Ambassador of Spain in Belgrade the Declaration of this initiative, Spain joined and assumed the Terms of Reference of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.

Since then, we have taken part in the two ISCs meeting every year, and in several activities organized by the Decade. Taking into account this experience and the proposals of reform sent by the secretariat of the decade, Spain hereby informs:

Spain highly appreciates the efforts made to coordinate the decade and EU framework processes, especially as regards the policy papers, monitoring mechanisms and meetings. We also appreciate the continuity of the civil society monitoring reports, which we consider one of the main added values of the Decade. In this regard, Roma participation in the Decade shall be retained and strengthened, being the decade maybe the sole international forum where governments and civil society organizations can really be present and discuss on equal footing. As for the priority areas, we believe a stronger focus should be put in the non discrimination and equal treatment issues, especially as regards the gender dimension of the Roma policies.

Though, we regret the disappearance of the status of observers. Maybe an alternative solution could be giving a higher level of participation to the observers, inviting them to participate to some extent in the ISCs and decade activities, presenting or discussing certain topics of interest, both to the Decade as a whole or of the observer. As for the monitoring mechanisms, we believe there is still a high risk of redundancy with other processes at European level, especially for the EU members. The UE has set up an increasingly demanding system of monitoring of the NRIS, accompanied by the work of the FRA and, namely, the FRA working group on Roma inclusion. The Council of Europe also boasts an extensive system of monitoring, linked to conventions and treaties such as the framework convention for the protection of national minorities, along with the work of the CAHROM, which has developed a new line of action with the thematic visits, which also contribute to make visible and promote Roma inclusion policies, exchanging good practices.

We also believe that, as the Decade is configured in the reform proposal, it is more aimed at non-UE countries, and could probably be more of more interest to them, and their Roma population, as a way to get their interests closer to the UE, as stated in the reform proposal when foreseeing the decade as a facilitator that would seek ways to

input EU level meetings' agenda in a way that would reflect the issues of concern of all Decade partners; and that in a time of financial restrictions, efforts should be directed and not reduplicated.

Spain, thus, would prefer to focus the efforts in the EU framework processes, being open to consider , in any case, to participate in activities, reports or events in which the Decade secretariat or other Decade partners would consider appropriate the attendance of Spain.

Madrid, 18 de febrero de 2014.