

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Working Paper 1 on the Topic of the Situation of the Romani People

Sponsors: Ukraine, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy

**Signatories: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic,
France, Sweden**

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Recognizing the Romani population in each country to be a minority;

Bearing in mind that the Romani question is a global issue and thus requires a multilateral solution;

Recognizing also the urgency of this issue due to the expiring EU multiannual financial framework concerning the years 2014 to 2020 that facilitates the use of EU funds for Roma integration;

Condemning the unfounded accusations expressed by the Lithuanian delegation and their efforts to heavily violate the Bulgarian Republic's sovereignty and internal security;

Emphasizing the importance and usefulness of a complete and accurate census to better plan the provision of funds for social and integratory measures including but not limited to education, health care, housing;

Considering the current beneficial effects of the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (AFRD) for the Roma people;

Commending the OHCHR Convention on the Rights of the Child;

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1. *Urges* all member states to grant Romani people minority status;
2. *Stresses* the importance of vaccination and healthcare for all minorities;
3. *Asks* all member states to respect Romani itinerant traditions and thus
 - a. To provide level spaces with the necessary sanitary facilities as well as access to water and electricity;
 - b. Ensure that these spaces are well-protected, maintained and secure in order to guarantee safe living conditions;
 - c. Ensure freedom of movement for Romani caravans,
4. *Encourages* the Member states to conduct an international census over all the Romani minorities which is:
 - a. safely kept out of the civilian reach;
 - b. conducted with a focus on transparency and information security;
 - c. Shared between the member states to which it is relevant,
5. *Stresses* the importance of education in the process of integration of the minorities in the local society and therefore:
 - a. Recommends creating a guide for homeschooling children which is:
 - A. Written by a diverse panel of experts on education in the respective country;
 - B. Certified according to International Education Standards;
 - C. Translated into all relevant languages,
 - b. Further recommends the development of integrated classes which:
 - D. Are taught by specifically trained teachers;
 - E. Include an introduction to the culture of the hosting country;
 - F. Offer the opportunity to learn the official language of the country,

- c. Calls for Child Protective Services in member states to be empowered to take over the responsibility of raising children in the case of proved violations of the OHCHR Convention on the Rights of the Child until the parents are recognized as competent enough to ensure their children's well-being;
6. *Reminds* all countries that children of minority background should be able to pursue the highest academic degree possible in a country and therefore;
 - a. Grant access to children of a minority background independent of their socio-economic background;
 - b. Grant access to all possible working markets for university graduates;
 - c. Grant access to financial aid for graduates willing to start a career or found a company in a country they have never lived in,
7. *Urges member states* to provide access to institutions such as:
 - a. Access to banks in order to secure their money and benefiting from interests;
 - b. Access to basic health insurance provided by a newly founded company;
 - c. Access to financial institutions to allow them a contribution in the international economy,
8. *Encourages* member states with Gypsy minorities to provide them with opportunities for economic growth, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Access to market stalls to sell homemade goods;
 - b. Permits to set up non-permanent stalls in order to offer traditional services such as knife whetting and basket weaving;
 - c. Facilitating access to official spots for busking in cities, train stations and other public spaces,
9. *Calls for* the expansion of EU funds to support countries with weaker economies, including but not limited to
 - a. European Social Fund (ESF);
 - b. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);
 - c. Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD),
10. *Decides* to remain seized on the matter.