

## **Ad hoc committee of experts on Roma and Traveller issues (CAHROM)<sup>1</sup>**

*Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.*

**Type of committee:** Ad hoc Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019**

### Pillar/Sector/Programme

**Pillar:** Human Rights

**Sector:** Promoting Human Rights and Dignity

**Programme:** Social Inclusion and Respect for Human Rights: Migrants, Roma

### Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the Committee is instructed to:

- (i) review the implementation of policies (national programmes and/or action plans) and identify good practices of member States concerning Roma and Travellers, with a view to promoting implementation of relevant Council of Europe standards and contributing to the European database on policies/good practices for the integration of Roma and Travellers;
- (ii) exchange information, views and experience on member States' policies and relevant measures for Roma and Travellers at national, regional and local level, in order to assist member States in the development and implementation of effective policies for Roma and Traveller integration, with due regard to the relevant standards and instruments of the Council of Europe and bearing in mind the specific situation in each member State;

<sup>1</sup> The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "*Gens du voyage*", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

- (iii) prepare recommendations, advice and opinions for the Committee of Ministers, including ad hoc opinions on emerging issues requiring urgent attention;
- (iv) draw up guidelines for the development and/or implementation of policies which promote the rights of the Roma and Travellers, taking into account the findings of the relevant monitoring and other mechanisms of the Council of Europe;
- (v) keep under review the situation of Roma and Travellers in member States without pursuing activities relating to monitoring;
- (vi) prepare, review and evaluate its programme of activities and working methods and report back to the Committee of Ministers; receive reports and opinions from the relevant Council of Europe bodies and structures on any matter falling within these terms of reference;
- (vii) support the implementation of relevant activities launched by the Council of Europe, particularly within the “Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)” and follow its implementation;
- (viii) integrate in its work the life-cycle approach;
- (ix) take due account of a gender perspective in the performance of its tasks;
- (x) ensure co-operation and synergies with the work of other international organisations active in this area, in particular with the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and relevant United Nations’ specialised agencies.

#### Specific tasks

- (i) Prepare a draft recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on the inclusion of the teaching of Roma history, including Roma Holocaust, in textbooks and school curricula.
- (ii) Examine and approve annually the conclusions of four to five thematic reports covering at least 15 national policies.
- (iii) Carry out thematic exchanges during its plenary meetings with the two ad hoc rapporteurs of the Council of Europe dialogue mechanism with Roma and Traveller civil society on the topics discussed at the dialogue.
- (iv) Examine the situation of Roma and/or Travellers in member States hosting a CAHROM plenary meeting through a field visit to Roma settlements or travelling sites and/or a hearing with representatives of state and local authorities and local Roma and/or Traveller civil society.
- (v) Follow the developments of Roma inclusion indicators and surveys internationally and propose follow-up steps for all Council of Europe member States.

#### Composition

**Members:**

Governments of member States are entitled to appoint representatives of the highest possible rank and with the following qualifications:

- have specialised knowledge of the various issues relating to Roma and/or Travellers (legal status, discrimination, health, education, employment, housing, social policy and political participation);
- have direct experience of the Roma and/or Traveller populations, their culture and way of life;
- have a deep knowledge of the policies on Roma and/or Travellers in their country and have a good knowledge of policies in other member States;
- be in a position to serve as focal points between the Council of Europe and the authorities of their countries about any decisions, documents or recommendations drafted or adopted by the Committee;
- be in close contact in their country with the Roma and/or Traveller populations and the NGOs working in this area;
- be able to speak and read in at least one of the official languages of the Council of Europe.

If a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected chair).

**Participants:**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI);
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH);
- Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP);
- Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (CDPPE);
- European Steering Committee on youth (CDEJ);
- Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ);
- European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR);
- Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;
- Committee of experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (EU) and its Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI);
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM);
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR);
- Regional Co-operation Council (RCC);
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO);
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- World Bank.

**Observers:**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Amnesty International (AI);
- European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet);
- European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI);
- European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF);
- European Roma Information Office (ERIO);
- European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC);
- Financial Mechanisms Office (EEA and Norway Grants);
- Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP);
- Open Society Foundations (OSF);
- Roma Education Fund (REF).

**Working methods**

**Plenary meetings:**

48 members, 2 meetings in 2018, 3.5 days

48 members, 2 meetings in 2019, 3.5 days

**Bureau meetings:**

3 members, 2 meetings in 2018, 1 day

3 members, 2 meetings in 2019, 1 day

**Additional working methods:**

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

In addition, the following provisions shall apply.

The Committee holds two regular meetings a year, one of which possibly hosted by a member State. When a regular meeting is hosted by a member State, arrangements with the host country shall ensure that the meeting will not entail additional costs for the Council of Europe.

In derogation from Article 6 of appendix 1 to Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#), and in conformity with Article 17 of the same appendix, in addition to the official working languages of the Organisation (English, French), interpretation will be provided into the Romani language and the agenda translated into Romani for regular meetings whenever necessary and within the limits of available budgetary appropriations. Any adopted pertinent texts (e.g. Recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers) will be translated into Romani.

The Committee will appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur, a Roma Youth Rapporteur, a Roma Children Rapporteur, a Rapporteur on Anti-Gypsyism and Hate Crime, as well as a Rapporteur on the role of local and regional authorities from amongst its members.

A drafting group of a maximum of five experts, including the CAHROM Chair or a Bureau member, and a consultant, could be set up and meet twice a year for one day each, in view of drafting a recommendation for the Committee of Ministers.

The Committee will form small thematic groups to study, analyse and evaluate, through an exchange of experiences, specific issues or areas identified by the Committee. Each thematic group is composed of one or two experts from countries wishing to benefit from the experience of other member States (requesting country) and up to six experts from countries wishing to share their experience in this area (partner countries). Experts of the thematic group are CAHROM members of the countries concerned or experts appointed by them. The requesting country invites the partner countries' experts and the Secretariat to visit the country for two and half days. With prior approval of the thematic group, representatives of international organisations having a participant or observer status with the CAHROM and members of the Secretariat of other relevant Council of Europe bodies may participate in thematic visits at their own expense. These thematic visits are organised within the limits of available budgetary resources. The thematic reports are discussed and endorsed in Committee meetings and submitted to the Committee of Ministers for information. Thematic visits/reports will take into consideration the life cycle approach.