

Sarajevo, 31 October 2014

CAHROM (2014)20

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ROMA ISSUES
(CAHROM)

8th CAHROM MEETING

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
28-31 October 2014

LIST OF DECISIONS adopted by the Committee

1. The Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM) held its 8th meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 28-31 October 2014. The first day included a field visit to Kakanj municipality and to Gorica district in Sarajevo which addressed social housing for Roma, Roma children's education and Roma mediation. The agenda as adopted appears in the Appendix.

Recent developments at national and international levels

2. The Committee heard interventions from Deputy Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Miladin Dragičević, from the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Roma issues, from the ROMED/ROMACT Secretariat, from the European Commission (DG Employment), from FRA, the ERTF, the Secretariat of the Roma Decade, the Holy See and the Order of Malta.

3. The Committee also heard a presentation on the situation of Roma in Azerbaijan and took note of written contributions by Latvia, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

Exchange of views on the revised concept for the setting-up of a European Roma Institute

4. The Committee proceeded with an exchange of views with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma issues on a revised concept for the setting-up of a European Roma Institute (ERI) and decided to keep this item on the agenda of its next meeting.

5. The Committee proceeded with an exchange of views on cooperation and synergies between the CAHROM and meetings of the EU National Roma Contact Points with a view to preparing the NRCP meeting in Rome on 5-6 November 2014 and agreed on the importance of maintaining dialogue between the CAHROM and the NRCP network and avoiding duplication.

Roma women

6. The Committee took note of recommendations and proposals of follow-up to both the International Roma Women's Helsinki Conference and of the CAHROM thematic visit to Lithuania on Roma women's empowerment and gender dimension of Roma inclusion policies.

7. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the CAHROM thematic report on Roma women's empowerment and gender dimension of national Roma inclusion strategies (with Lithuania as a requesting country and Finland, Italy, the Republic of Moldova and Spain as partner countries).

8. The Committee took note of information provided about the International Workshop on the gender dimension of Roma inclusion strategies and action plans to be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 24-25 November 2014 and on the 5th International Roma Women's Conference to be held in Skopje, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in September or October 2015.

Roma youth

9. The Committee took note of the follow-up given by the Committee of Ministers to the CAHROM Opinion on Congress Recommendation 354 (2014) "Empowering Roma youth through participation: effective policy design at local and regional levels" and heard recent developments from the Youth Department of the Council of Europe on recent developments concerning the Roma Youth Action Plan, the toolkit for youth organisations to tackle anti-Gypsyism and Roma youth participation activities and about new publications (*Barabaripen: young Roma speak about multiple discrimination; Right to remember: handbook for education of young people on the Roma genocide*). The Committee also heard brief information concerning the International Conference on Roma Youth Policies to be held on 28 November 2014 under Belgium's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe.

10. The Committee decided to include the Roma youth rapporteur (Croatia) in the thematic group on Roma youth empowerment and the youth dimension of national Roma inclusion strategies requested by Slovenia.

Elections of the 2015 CAHROM Bureau

11. The Committee elected its new Bureau for 2015. The Committee elected Mr Stanko Baluh (Slovenia) as Chair, re-elected Ms Mabera Kamberi ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") as Vice-Chair and elected Ms Christa Achleitner (Austria) as third Bureau member.

Appointment of Committee rapporteurs

12. The Committee re-appointed Ms Sarita Friman-Korpela (Finland) as gender equality rapporteur, appointed Mr Martin Martínek (Czech Republic) as rapporteur on Roma children, Mr Branko Sočanac (Croatia) as Roma youth rapporteur and Mr Ian Naysmith (United Kingdom) as rapporteur on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime.

Housing

13. The Committee heard a presentation from the Director General of Construction Section of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic on the draft Building Act on dwellings built without respecting construction rules and of dwellings

built without a proper land ownership, as well as an update on recent developments in the field of housing from the Albania and Serbia Committee members.

14. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the thematic report on legalisation of Roma informal settlements as an alternative to forced evictions (with Serbia as a requesting country and Greece, Slovak Republic and Spain as partner countries).

15. The Committee heard from the Secretariat an overview presentation on policy measures and concrete actions regarding halting sites for Travellers, social housing and legalisation of Roma informal settlements resulting from four previous CAHROM thematic reports, as well as a presentation from UNDP on the housing situation of Roma communities.

Right to leave one's country

16. Following a presentation from ERRC on their report "*Going nowhere: Western Balkan Roma and EU visa liberalisation*", the Committee considered that this topic had been already the subject of very full discussion in a number of CAHROM meetings and addressed through the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Issue Paper on *the right to leave a country*. The Committee therefore recommended that in the future this important topic should be addressed in other networks, possibly in the presence of the European Union/Commission.

Migration and freedom of movement

17. The Committee took note of the updated *ERTF Guide to the Roles and Responsibilities of Local Authorities for the Inclusion of Roma Migrants* and its dissemination to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The Committee took note of the request of the ERTF to have it also disseminated by CAHROM members in their respective countries and translated into national languages. The Committee suggested to the ERTF to have this report published on the website of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion.

Roma and Traveller children's education

18. The Committee received information on the education of Roma migrant and Traveller children in France, as well as on recent developments in the Czech Republic concerning educational measures aimed at desegregation of Roma children and introduction of one year compulsory pre-school education.

Early marriages in relation to human trafficking

19. The Committee took note of the Italian reply to the questionnaire on early/forced marriages and anti-trafficking legislation, as well as of recent developments in this area in the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Chair encouraged other member States to reply to this questionnaire.

Romani language and culture

20. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the thematic report on the protection and promotion of languages spoken by Roma (with Croatia as a requesting country and Austria, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic as partner countries), and took note of a presentation from Austria on the importance of wider cultural issues.

Legal status and identity/personal documents

21. The Committee heard preliminary conclusions of the thematic report on solving the legal status of Roma from ex-Yugoslavia and their lack of ID documents (with Italy as a requesting country and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” as partner countries) and an intervention from the UNHCR and decided to endorse the conclusions through written procedure before the submission of the abridged report of the 8th CAHROM meeting to the January 2015 meeting of the GR-SOC.

Anti-Gypsyism and Dosta! campaign

22. The Committee heard presentation from Sweden on its White Paper on unfair treatment, rights violations and other acts against the Roma in Sweden during the 20th century and the work of its Commission against anti-Gypsyism. The Committee recommended that the member States take note of the Swedish example of conducting an open and thorough investigation of a challenging issue and consider conducting similar investigations where relevant. The Committee took note that Norway will present the results of the work of a committee of independent experts tasked with documenting and assessing the previous policies and measures towards the Romani people/Tatars in Norway at a future meeting.

23. The Committee took note of the Slovak Association for Culture, Education and Communication on the 2015 International Roma Spirit Award, which also operates in the Czech Republic, and of the invitation addressed to member States to consider introducing similar Roma Spirit Awards in their country.

24. The Committee took note of the future launching of the Dosta! campaign in Latvia in March 2015, as well as of information provided by the Secretariat regarding anti-discrimination training sessions for lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and the police.

25. The Committee welcomed the Finnish government’s invitation addressed to the CAHROM rapporteur on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime (the United Kingdom) to participate in the Conference on anti-discrimination against Roma to be held in Helsinki on 3 December 2014.

Health

26. The Committee heard from IOM representative about recent developments on the Equi-health project, as well as from the Czech Republic on the proposed Czech Law to compensate victims of forced sterilisation.

Proposals for future thematic groups

27. The Committee approved the following list of thematic groups and visits:

- A thematic visit to the Czech Republic (19-21 November 2014) on pre-school education of Roma children with partner countries’ experts from Hungary, Latvia, Poland and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”;
- A thematic visit to Albania (March 2015) on combating trafficking of human beings within Roma communities with a focus on street children and prostitution with partner countries’ experts from Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Romania;
- A thematic visit to France (March or April 2015) on school inclusion of Roma migrants’ children and access to education for Traveller children with partner countries’ experts from Albania, Belgium, and possibly from Italy, Norway and Switzerland;

- A thematic visit to Slovenia (Spring 2015) on Roma youth empowerment and the youth dimension of national Roma inclusion strategies with partner countries' experts from Belgium, Croatia, Luxembourg and the Slovak Republic;
- A thematic visit to Romania on education to gender equality, including the issue of early and/or forced marriage (Spring 2015) with partner countries from the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and possibly the United Kingdom;

28. The Committee agreed to further examine proposals to set up thematic groups on Roma empowerment and participation in public life and consultative mechanisms, as well as on vocational training and Roma-health related topics at its next meeting. The Committee took note of IOM suggestion to establish a thematic group on Roma health mediators and the interest expressed by some member States for this topic.

Arrangements and proposals for the agenda of the next plenary meeting

29. The Committee decided the dates and venue of its 9th meeting (Strasbourg, 27-29 May 2015) and welcomed the offers from Romania to host the 10th CAHROM meeting in October 2015 and from Bulgaria to host the 11th CAHROM meeting in May 2016 under Bulgaria's chairmanship of the Council of Europe, pending approval of new Term of Reference of the CAHROM for the period 2016/2017.

30. The Committee heard the views of the Slovenian CAHROM member about the follow-up to be given to the request for observer status received from the Slovenia-based European Roma Union (ERU) and agreed to defer the decision to examine the request for observer status and pending the results of the consultation of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe with Roma civil society.

31. For the agenda of its next meeting, on 27-29 May 2015, the Committee decided:

- To include an update on the legalisation of informal settlements in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and concrete actions undertaken by civil society and authorities;
- To invite Mr Olivier Peyroux for a presentation of his book "*Délinquants et victimes: la traite des enfants d'Europe de l'est en France*" (Criminals and victims: human trafficking of children from Eastern Europe in France) and to invite GRETA Secretariat for an exchange of views on early/forced marriages in relation to human trafficking;
- To invite Mr Javier Sáez, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) to present the four Guides produced by the Net-Kard EU-funded project on preventing discrimination of Roma among key actors: lawyers, mass media, police and NGOs;
- To invite the Chair of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and/or the Secretariat of the Language Charter;
- To examine the conclusions of three thematic reports for endorsement;
- To discuss the use of "contracts" for projects between Roma families/communities and municipalities/institutions.

Appendix: Agenda of the 8th CAHROM meeting

Kakanj and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27 October 2014

Field visit to Kakanj municipality and to Gorica district in Sarajevo.

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 28 October 2014

- 1) Opening of the 8th CAHROM meeting**
- 2) Adoption of the agenda**
- 3) Feedback from the field visit**
- 4) Recent developments**
 - a. Recent developments at international level
 - b. Situation of Roma at national level (Azerbaijan)
 - c. Exchange of views on international initiatives and synergies between the European Union and the Council of Europe on Roma issues
- 5) Roma women and youth**
 - a. Roma women (including the thematic report on Roma women's empowerment and the gender dimension of Roma inclusion policies with Lithuania as a requesting country and Finland, Italy, the Republic of Moldova and Spain as partner countries)
 - b. Roma youth
- 6) Elections of the 2015 CAHROM Bureau and nomination of Committee Rapporteurs**
 - a. Elections of the 2015 CAHROM Bureau
 - b. Nomination of Committee Rapporteurs on gender equality, Roma children, Roma youth and on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime

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- 7) Housing**
 - a. Thematic report on legalisation of Roma informal settlements, social housing and alternatives to forced evictions (with Serbia as a requesting country and Greece, the Slovak Republic and Spain as partner countries)
 - b. Follow-up to previous thematic reports on Roma housing and Travellers' encampment sites and housing-related developments in member states
- 8) Migration, freedom of movement and right to leave one's country**
 - a. Right to leave one's country
 - b. Migration and freedom of movement
- 9) Roma and Traveller children's education**
- 10) Early marriages and human trafficking**
 - a. Early marriages
 - b. Human trafficking

- 11) Romani language and culture (including the thematic report on the protection and promotion of the languages spoken by Roma with Croatia as a requesting country and Austria, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic as partner countries)**
- 12) Legal status and ID documents (including the thematic report on the legal status of Roma from ex-Yugoslavia and their lack of ID documents with Italy as a requesting country and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” as partner countries)**

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- 13) Anti-Gypsyism and the Dosta! campaign**
- 14) Health and access to health care**
- 15) Proposals for future thematic groups**
- 16) Arrangements and proposals for the agenda of the next plenary meeting**
- 17) Adoption of the abridged report (list of decisions)**