

26 June 2017

CAHROM (2017)15

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ROMA AND TRAVELLER¹ ISSUES
(CAHROM)

13th CAHROM PLENARY MEETING
Prague, Czech Republic, 31 May – 3 June 2017

FINAL ABRIDGED REPORT

Wednesday, 31 May 2017²

Opening of the plenary meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. Mr Branko Sočanac (Croatia), Chair of the CAHROM, opened the 13th plenary meeting.
2. The Committee adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix I.

The Czech National Strategy for Roma Integration, its institutional set-up and monitoring

3. The Committee heard presentations concerning the implementation of the Czech National Strategy for Roma Integration (2015-2020), including its institutional set-up and monitoring mechanism from Mr David Beňák, Deputy Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation, and from three members of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs. The strategy continues to cover the four main pillars (education, employment, health and housing) and anti-discrimination policies and measures supporting Romani culture and language. Data collected by Czech Regional Roma Coordinators estimate the number of Roma in the Czech Republic at 245,800 (2.3% of the total population), half of whom lived in socially excluded areas. A study from 2015 defined 606 socially excluded localities in the Czech Republic.

¹ 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.

² A fifth Co-ordination Meeting between international inter-governmental organisations and European institutions attended by the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Commission (DG JUST, DG NEAR and DG EMPL), FRA, UNDP, and RCC took place in the morning as a side event organised by the SRSG for Roma Issues. It also counted on the exceptional participation of former EU Commissioner Vladimír Špidlá, currently Senior Adviser to the Czech Prime Minister, as well as on the presence of the Chair and the Czech member of the CAHROM. The agenda covered *inter-alia* the setting-up of an International Task Force on Anti-Gypsyism, an initial proposal from former Commissioner Špidlá back in 2009 that could be possibly launched under the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May-November 2017). This proposal received global support from the participants, including from OSCE/ODIHR and ECMI, absent from the meeting. Participants agreed that additional talks would be needed to define its mandate, precise goals, and participants. It was proposed that this task force could be used *inter alia* for a quicker international condemnation of anti-Roma hate speech or racist attacks. Other agenda items included an update on joint CoE/EC programmes, the results of RCC workshops on monitoring and reporting in Vienna (December 2016) and on budgeting for Roma Integration Policies in Skopje (March 2017), as well as an update on FRA EU-MIDIS II and future plans and on DG NEAR survey for Western Balkans and Turkey implemented by UNDP and the World Bank.

4. The Committee also heard welcoming remarks from the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues who thanked the Czech authorities for hosting the Committee in Prague and for the excellent organisation of the meeting. He recalled that this 13th CAHROM meeting was taking place under the Czech Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and during the 19th Edition of the World Roma Festival Khamoro. The Committee also thanked the Czech organisers and Slovo 21 Association for their invitation to various festival events, as well as for the possibility for some of the participants to attend the last day of the International Conference on *Quality Education for Everyone* organised by Slovo 21 under the auspices of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the EU Commissioner Jourová on 2-3 June 2017³.

5. The Chair concluded item II by emphasizing that progress had definitely been made over recent years in the Czech Republic, including in the field of education and regarding the implementation of the D.H. case related to school segregation. The number of Roma children enrolled in practical (special/segregated) schools had decreased (this concerns about 25% of all Roma children) and the number of children diagnosed as mentally disabled was now close to the average in Europe thanks *inter alia* to a change in the testing system and diagnostic tools. The introduction of one year of compulsory pre-school education, the provision of free meals for vulnerable families, the provision of scholarships for secondary and university levels, and the longstanding Czech experience in the promotion of Romani arts and culture were mentioned as positive developments. As recalled by the representative of the European Commission (DG JUST), the Czech Republic is collecting ethnic disaggregated data in the field of education so as to have more transparent monitoring of the impact of measures undertaken. The Czech Republic stated that it also strongly supported the fight against anti-Gypsyism which remained one of its priorities having in mind that, according to polls and surveys, about 80% of the Czech population still dislike Roma.

6. The Committee took note that one of the next policy steps would be the adoption of a social housing law and invited the Czech authorities to look into existing CAHROM thematic reports and other countries' experience in addressing this topic⁴. The current proposal of the Czech Government to buy the pig farm in Lety, a former concentration camp of Roma, and build instead a memorial to the victims, was fully supported: however, some participants expressed concerns that progress on this matter was rather slow and could be endangered by a possible change of government at the next general election scheduled in October 2017, should the decision not be implemented prior to this deadline or should no political consensus be met on this subject. It was also suggested that the Czech Parliament could adopt a parliamentary resolution officially recognising the Roma Holocaust, as was already done in Croatia, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. Whilst recognising the involvement of Roma representatives, including in the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs, the Committee took note that, too often, this participation was limited to a consultative nature and the appointment of Roma members by the Czech authorities, instead of a more open selection, might need to be reviewed. In that respect, it recalled some of the relevant conclusions of a recent thematic visit to Greece on Roma participation in advisory and decision-making bodies, as well as in political life.

7. Finally, the Committee reiterated its concerns already expressed at its 10th CAHROM meeting in Bucharest in 2015⁵ that the draft bill for the compensation of Roma women victims of forced sterilisation that was prepared by the previous Human Rights Minister had not been adopted by the Czech Government. Both the OSCE/ODIHR⁶ and the Council of Europe considered that openly recognising this harmful practice was still one of the major challenges in the Czech Republic and contributed to the perpetuation of this quasi unknown, though painful, history of Roma among the majority population.

³ This Conference was attended by CAHROM members from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Sweden, as well by ECMI and the CAHROM Secretary who delivered a speech on schools as engines for social inclusion on behalf of the SRSG for Roma Issues [see document CAHROM(2017)13].

⁴ See CAHROM housing-related reports at: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/cahrom>.

⁵ See CAHROM (2015)30 Abridged report of the 10th CAHROM meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 27-30 October 2015, para. 30.

⁶ See the Summary Report of the OSCE/ODIHR Conference on Forced and Coercive Sterilization of Roma Women: Justice and Reparations for Victims in the Czech Republic (held in Prague on 1 June 2016) at: http://www.osce.org/odihr/sterilization_report.

Remembering Roma Holocaust, teaching Roma history, Romani arts and culture, inclusive education and combating hate speech and anti-Gypsyism: Czech and other member States' initiatives, as well as transnational initiatives⁷

8. The Committee took note of a number of Czech initiatives addressing the above topics, namely the Holocaust collection in the Museum of Romani Culture in Brno (that most of the CAHROM participants visited on 3 June 2017) and the Database of Roma Holocaust victims (Terezin Initiative Institute).

9. The Committee also heard a presentation on the origins, mission and work of RomArchive, a German initiative. The CAHROM member on behalf of Germany also introduced recent developments concerning the recognition and fight against anti-Gypsyism, as well as the remembrance of the Roma Holocaust.

10. The Committee took note of the *reference paper on antigypsyism*⁸ presented by the European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO), and was informed that ERGO had started drafting shadow reports on anti-Gypsyism in member States. A trailer of the Dosta! campaign and OSF sponsored documentary movie "*Europe: Which children matter?*" was also presented to the Committee by a board member of Premeni and REST Associations and by the film director. The movie included testimonials of teachers, school directors, parents and students involved in a transnational project between the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, a project that received financial support from the Council of Europe and the Finnish Government via a voluntary contribution to the Council of Europe budget. The possibility to view this 52-minute movie was given to CAHROM participants until 6 June 2017 (without the right to download the movie or further share it before its first public screening). The CAHROM members on behalf of Finland and Norway expressed a strong interest to further promote this movie.

Exchange between the CAHROM and Czech (Roma) civil society and recent developments concerning the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture ERIAC⁹

11. The Committee took note of information provided by Slovo 21 (Khamoro World Festival), Romea.cz (working with media and media-related projects), IQ Roma Service (youth projects), Romodrom (housing projects), Český západ (community work projects) and RomanoNet (coalition of Czech Roma NGOs).

12. The Committee was updated on recent developments concerning ERIAC by a member of the Alliance for the European Roma Institute, as well as by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma issues, who is one of the three ERIAC Board members together with Mr Željko Jovanović from Open Society Foundations (OSF), the Chair of the Board, and Ms Nicoleta Bițu from the Alliance for the European Roma Institute (the Board Vice-Chair). Further to information posted on the CAHROM restricted website, they announced that ERIAC was officially registered by the Court as a charitable association on 28 May 2017. The SRSG confirmed the launching event of ERIAC in Berlin on Thursday, 8 June 2017 from 10:15 to 12:15 at the Lichthof of the German Federal Foreign Office.

13. The Chair concluded agenda items II and III and thanked all speakers. Presentations and follow-up discussion showed that, in the Czech Republic, there is a very active Roma and pro-Roma civil society with lots of on-going projects: e.g. refurbishing houses inhabited by Roma in deprived territories, the promotion of arts and culture, as well as positive Czech school practices of inclusive quality education that need to be replicated. It was also strongly recalled that not only Czech Roma but also the international community are waiting for a speedy solution to the pig farm issue in Lety. As regards ERIAC, some participants encouraged stronger synergies between RomArchive – which is due to be handed over in a few years' time - and ERIAC for three reasons: the two initiatives have similar goals; they are supported by the German Government and the two initiatives have a number of members in common.

⁷ Presentations available in English can be found in CAHROM(2017)13 Written contributions to the 13th CAHROM meeting.

⁸ <http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Antigypsyism-reference-paper-Layouted-version.pdf>.

⁹ See ERIAC update and Czech presentations in document CAHROM(2017)13 Written contributions to the 13th CAHROM meeting.

Thursday, 1 June 2017

CAHROM's reform, working methods and proposed terms of reference 2018-2019

14. The Committee heard a presentation from the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues on schools as engines for social inclusion¹⁰, as well as concrete elements from his grassroots experience. Furthermore, he presented the life cycle approach and the “10 for 10” (ten goals for the next 10 years)¹¹ announced by the Secretary General on 6 April 2017 which should guide the Council of Europe's future approach to Roma issues. The SRSG also encouraged the CAHROM to integrate these new priorities and approaches in the proposed Terms of Reference 2018-2019.

15. The Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues also briefly introduced his concept for reforming the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society. The new concept of the Dialogue¹² would focus on Roma and Traveller individual expertise, whether or not they are part of international or national organisations. Roma and Traveller individuals would need to answer a call for applications and provide motivation letters. Instead of a joint day between the CAHROM and the Dialogue, it was proposed that two ad hoc rapporteurs of the Dialogue meeting with Roma and/or Traveller civil society would report to the CAHROM in plenary meetings about the results, conclusions and follow-up proposals of the Dialogue meetings. Sweden observed that in order to have an effective dialogue, Roma and Traveller civil society participants should be briefed about the Council of Europe's mandate, as well as Roma and Traveller related priorities, projects and activities before they participate in the Dialogue meetings.

16. The proposed reform of the Dialogue received overall support from the CAHROM members, participants and observers. The Committee agreed to amend the proposed Terms of Reference 2018-2019 accordingly and to include a reference to the 10 for 10 (ten goals for the next ten years) and the life cycle approach with a view to bringing focus to its work.

17. Based on the 23 replies received from CAHROM members to the questionnaire for the revision of the CAHROM's Terms of Reference and its working methods [document CAHROM(2017)2], the Secretariat presented possible amendments to the current version of the Terms of Reference. Amongst the proposed changes, specific tasks were reworded and the total number of partner countries' experts for thematic visits was increased to six to respond to the increasing demand.

18. Whilst regretting the regular absence of UNESCO and ERIO in CAHROM plenary meetings, the Committee decided not to modify the list of participants and observers. Regarding the inclusion of new observers, the Committee took note that any potential applicant should firstly send a written request to the Secretary General before its examination by the CAHROM, or, in case of a lack of unanimity within the Committee, by the Committee of Ministers¹³. The proposed amendment to invite ministries or state secretaries to the CAHROM plenary meetings was not retained since CAHROM members observed that the Terms of Reference already explicitly mentioned under “Composition” that members should be “of the highest possible rank”. Should there be a proposal from a ministry or a state secretary to attend CAHROM plenary meetings (in addition to the current member), the Committee reiterated that it would have no objections to have the Secretariat send such invitation letters without extra costs for the Council of Europe.

19. The Committee endorsed the proposed Terms of Reference 2018-2019 as they appear in document CAHROM (2017)5.

¹⁰ See the SRSG presentation on schools as engines for social inclusion in document CAHROM (2017)13 Written contributions.

¹¹ These ten goals are visible on the SRSG Roma portal : <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/roma>.

¹² See the Concept Paper for the Reform of the Dialogue in document CAHROM (2017)13 Written contributions.

¹³ See Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, in particular chapter III.C on Observers.

CAHROM's thematic visits and reports

20. The Committee received from the Secretariat a brief overview of the impact, outcome and follow-up given to CAHROM thematic reports/visits between 2012 and 2016. This overview was already presented at the last CAHROM plenary meeting but was completed with new replies to the questionnaire, as well as with statistical information on the main topics of the thematic visits, the participation of CAHROM members versus other national experts, on member States' participation in this thematic working method, as well as gender-based information regarding the experts participating in the thematic visits. A list of these experts (without contact details) could be obtained from the Secretariat and would be integrated in a future database of experts.

21. Austria provided brief information on the thematic visit on the protection, preservation and teaching of languages spoken by Roma, Sinti, Kaale and Yenish (including ways to handle the opposition of traditional communities to have their language written and taught) held in Graz on 29-31 March 2017 with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland as partner countries; Lithuania provided feedback on the thematic visit on Roma mediation and its institutionalisation (with a focus on Roma school mediators and assistants) held in Vilnius and Panažėvis on 25-27 April 2017 with Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Portugal and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as partner countries; Ukraine provided feedback on the thematic visit on challenges and best practices in implementing national Roma inclusion strategies/action plans (including measures for solving personal identification documents and improving access to social services) held in Kyiv on 26-28 April 2017 with Greece, Poland, Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as partner countries. The Committee took note that the three thematic reports will be examined at the next plenary meeting.

22. Georgia confirmed the forthcoming thematic visit on the situation and challenges of eastern Roma groups (Roma from Anatolia and Caucasus, Dom/Garachi/Karachi, Lom/Bosha/Posha and Abdal) that would be held in Tbilisi on 21-23 June 2017 with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and Turkey as partner countries. Two visits to Roma settlements would be included, as well as exchanges with relevant ministries and state institutions, including on issues such as cross-border migration, human trafficking, prostitution or street children. It was agreed that the Russian Federation would indicate a new expert to the Secretariat by 9 June 2017. ECMI and OSCE/ODIHR confirmed their participation and the EU Delegation and the CoE Office in Tbilisi would be invited. The department of the European Commission (DG NEAR) dealing with neighbouring policies was also invited to join this thematic visit.

23. The Slovak Republic confirmed the hosting of a thematic visit on teaching of Roma history, including the Roma Holocaust, in textbooks and school curricula in Košice on 7-9 November 2017 with the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova and Romania (the latter to be confirmed) as partner countries.

24. Turkey confirmed the possibility to host a thematic visit on Roma access to employment (with a focus on Roma women and youth) in 2018 with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as interested partner countries.

25. Latvia confirmed the possibility to host a thematic visit on Roma integration policies and coordination practices in countries with a small Roma population in 2018 with *inter alia* Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Norway and Switzerland as interested partner countries.

26. The Russian Federation would consider the possibility to host in 2018 or 2019 a thematic visit on the impact of traditions and culture in Roma policy development and implementation, a topic that had been proposed by Poland and supported by the Republic of Moldova and Slovenia.

27. A thematic visit on access to justice with JUSTROM pilot countries received support at the meeting from Greece, Ireland and Italy. This thematic visit would not be scheduled before the second half of 2018 and would require the confirmation of a hosting country.

28. It was agreed that the exact title of a Roma education-related thematic visit would be further discussed among CAHROM members that were *a priori* interested by such a thematic visit (Greece, the Republic of Moldova and Poland). As per the proposed Terms of Reference 2018-2019, it would need to be connected to the 10 for 10 (ten goals for the next ten years), the life cycle approach and might also be connected to the concept of schools as engines for social inclusion¹⁴.

29. Following the proposal made by OSCE/ODIHR to have the Czech Republic hosting a CAHROM thematic visit on public apologies and compensation procedures of Roma victims of past harmful practices, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland offered to share their expertise as partner countries, provided confirmation was received from the Czech Republic.

30. The Committee endorsed the updated list of proposed thematic visits for 2017-2018 [document CAHROM (2017)3]rev6]. Committee members and international participants and observers had until 30 June 2017 to provide any written feedback or additional information on the overview document of the impact, outcome and follow-up given to CAHROM thematic visits and reports over the period 2012-2016 [document (2016)11]. The Committee agreed that, pending its final endorsement by the Bureau, this document could be circulated to the Committee of Ministers, via the GR-SOC for information.

Recent developments at national level and open questions to CAHROM members and international participants and observers, including on joint EU/CoE programmes

31. The Committee heard various country presentations: France reported on the abrogation of Law No. 69-3 of 3 January 1969 relating to the exercise of itinerant activities and to the regime applicable to persons travelling in France without a permanent residence or residence through the adoption of the Equality and Citizenship Act in January 2017, as well as on a DIHAL meeting on "Early and forced couples into slum populations" held in Paris in March 2017. Ireland reported on the formal recognition of Irish Travellers as an ethnic group of the Irish nation on 1 March 2017 and the forthcoming adoption - mid-June 2017 - of a new national strategy for the inclusion of Travellers and Roma, as well as the operation of the steering group for implementation of the strategy which will meet again in July 2017. Ukraine informed the Committee on progress related to the adoption of a new National Action Plan for Roma, as well as on the inter-institutional co-operation and Roma participation through the work of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Roma. Albania reported on a new draft social housing law endorsed by the Government which was now under consultation in the Albanian Parliament and could be subject to parliamentary hearings with Roma and Egyptian civil society. This draft law, which was welcomed by the Council of Europe, included a quota of 5% for Roma and Egyptian families in any new social housing units and a ban on forced evictions that would need to be further defined through a by-law.

32. The German CAHROM member received written feedback from Bulgaria and Greece and additional feedback from Greece on its question related to human trafficking and the selling and adoption of Roma babies by Bulgarian Roma women in Greece. She also received a response from the Youth Department to her question on Council of Europe's Roma youth-related activities and initiatives. As regards her question on the possible prolongation of the ROMED programme in Germany, a joint reply from the European Commission (DG EAC) and the Council of Europe's SRSG Roma Support Team was circulated after the meeting¹⁵. In addition, Greece informed participants that they would provide a written answer to the question raised by Roma and Traveller civil society at the last CAHROM plenary meeting.

33. The Committee took note of the General Comment No.1. of the Deputy-Commissioner for Minority Rights of Hungary from 15 July 2016 on issues related to the pre-boarding screening of international passengers, in particular persons of Roma ethnic origin, at Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport, irrespective of the fact that they had valid travel documents and air tickets. The ENNHRI representative from Hungary and the Equinet representative from the Czech Republic informed

¹⁴ Current proposed titles included so far a) "Thematic group on how to motivate Roma children to learn in formal and informal education, including through digital education" (proposed by the Republic of Moldova); b) "Thematic group on enhancing effective realization of school duty of Roma children as the efficient tool towards changing the situation of Roma communities with special focus on vocational education of Roma youth" (proposed by Poland).

¹⁵ The questions and the responses can be found in document CAHROM (2017)11 Written contributions for the 13th meeting.

the Committee that such a practice had been observed not only at Budapest Airport but also in transit airports in Brussels, London, Paris, Vienna and Warsaw. The Committee regretted that Canada was not present at the meeting to share its views; its Delegation to the Council of Europe based in Brussels apologized for not being able to participate at the Prague meeting due to late notice and proposed to send a written reply to the CAHROM and/or eventually attend one of the next CAHROM plenary meetings.

34. The Chair concluded agenda item VI by inviting other CAHROM members, participants and observers to make use in the future of this new working method introduced at the request of Germany. The Committee agreed to invite Canada to the next CAHROM plenary meeting in Strasbourg so as to hear the answer of Canadian authorities to issues raised by ENNHRI and Equinet members. The Committee also agreed to hear a presentation from ECMI on the diversity of “minority” status that Roma have in various member States at its next meeting.

Draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on improving access to justice for Roma and Travellers in Europe

35. The Committee examined and discussed with the Council of Europe consultant, Mr Dezideriu Gergely, the fourth revised draft version of the proposed CM Recommendation on improving access to justice for Roma and Travellers in Europe based on the conclusions of the fourth CAHROM drafting group meeting held in Paris on 10 April 2017. The Committee was informed that the Bureau of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) had no objections to the current draft but would like to receive copy of the text endorsed by the CAHROM. Discussions concentrated on two paragraphs in the preamble, as well as paragraphs 5.C and 5.D, including a proposal to merge and rewording these two paragraphs.

36. In response to those CAHROM members who expressed the wish to have additional time to consult with their respective authorities on the draft text, the Chair recalled that all CAHROM members had had ample time and opportunity to consult with their authorities. CAHROM members from France and Germany who participated in the last drafting group meeting agreed to the Chair's reasoning that there had already been a long on-going discussion on this matter. However, due to the latest proposed amendments and the new consultant's suggestions of a complicated character, Germany was unable to choose the preferred wording without further consideration and co-ordination with competent authorities, and therefore suggested an extended period of review. As a conclusion, the Chair proposed that the compromised wording proposed by the consultant on the above-mentioned paragraphs would be further examined by Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Equinet, ENNHRI, the European Commission (DG JUST), the Gender Equality Unit of the Council of Europe and the CD-DH Roma rapporteur by 13 June 2017. The updated version of the draft recommendation would then be circulated to all CAHROM members, participants and observers for final endorsement by 30 June 2017. Once this deadline was over, the draft CM recommendation would be considered as adopted by the CAHROM and circulated first to DLAPIL (for legal checking) and to the Editorial Service (for proofreading) in both official languages, and then circulated as Appendix II to the abridged report of the Prague meeting to the Committee of Ministers for consideration, via the GR-SOC meeting scheduled on 3 October 2017.

Friday, 2 June 2017

Parallel working groups to discuss CAHROM thematic reports

37. Following parallel working group sessions, the Committee heard a debriefing from the rapporteurs on the main conclusions of four CAHROM thematic visits, namely: on addressing the needs of newly arrived Roma communities, as well as opportunities and responses to challenges to their integration (Madrid, Spain, 14-16 December 2016); linking national anti-poverty policies and national Roma integration strategies through an integrated approach (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 November to 2 December 2016); empowerment and participation of Roma in advisory and decision-making bodies, as well as in political life with a focus on women and youth (Athens, Greece, 17-19 October 2016); and testing systems and diagnoses for Roma children with allegedly mild mental disabilities (Budapest, Hungary, 9-11 March 2016). The Committee also heard a presentation from the representative of UNDP-Serbia on Roma returnees to Serbia and the re-integration difficulties encountered by these families.

38. The Committee concluded agenda item VIII indicating that pending thematic reports would be finalised and circulated as soon as possible. It was decided to endorse these thematic reports by written procedure once they had been finalised and endorsed by the experts of the thematic groups. The Committee decided to keep the issue of Roma returnees to Serbia on the agenda of its next meeting and invited *inter alia* CAHROM members from Austria, Belgium, Germany and Sweden to present the current situation as regards the return of Roma to Serbia and to possibly other regions of Western Balkans.

Exchange with other rapporteurs, nomination of new CAHROM rapporteurs

39. The Committee exchanged with Rapporteurs on Roma Issues from the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), from the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) and from the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ). The Committee asked the CDDH Rapporteur to propose the inclusion of references to child and early marriages within Roma and Traveller communities and the “10 to 10” (ten goals for the next ten years) in the preamble of the Draft Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the need to intensify the efforts to prevent and combat female genital mutilation and forced marriage in Europe under discussion in the CDDH, bearing in mind that one of these ten goals reads as follows: “no child marriage within Roma and Traveller communities in Europe”.

40. The Committee also took note of recent developments concerning the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion and the 2017 Dosta! Congress prize to be awarded on 19 October 2017, as well as of the current list of signatories of the Declaration against Anti-Gypsyism. The Committee was informed by the Youth Department’s representative about developments concerning the Roma Youth Action Plan (RYAP) and the European Roma Youth Academy (ERYA).

Nomination of new CAHROM rapporteurs

41. Following a proposal received from the Netherlands and supported by Poland, the Committee decided to include the new CAHROM Rapporteur on the role of local and regional authorities in the Terms of Reference. Due to the absence of the Dutch and Polish CAHROM members when this agenda item was discussed, the Committee agreed to postpone the nomination of this rapporteur.

42. The Committee received applications from Finland and Hungary to be the new CAHROM rapporteur on gender equality, and from the Czech Republic and Sweden to be the new CAHROM rapporteur on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime. The Committee agreed that the Bureau would consult the respective CAHROM members before taking a final decision and would later inform the Committee.

Arrangements and proposals for the agenda of the next plenary meeting

43. The Committee expressed satisfaction about some new working methods introduced at the Prague meeting, as a result of the discussion held at the previous plenary meeting and the 23 replies from CAHROM members received to the questionnaire on CAHROM Terms of Reference and working methods [see document CAHROM (2016)11].

44. The Committee confirmed the dates of 24-27 October 2017 for the 14th CAHROM plenary meeting in Strasbourg. The Committee was informed that these dates coincided with a European Parliament session in Strasbourg; therefore, CAHROM members, participants and observers were strongly encouraged to confirm their participation, order their pre-paid tickets and book their hotel in Strasbourg at their earliest convenience. The Committee was informed that, as a side event of this plenary meeting, a photo exhibition of Roma refugees from Syria present in Turkey would be presented.

45. The Committee welcomed the invitation from Greece to host the 15th CAHROM meeting in Spring 2018, probably in Athens (to be confirmed), subject to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the CAHROM Terms of Reference 2018-2019. Another CAHROM member indicated that he would explore with his authorities the possibility to host a CAHROM plenary meeting in 2019 during his country’s chairmanship of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers.

46. The Committee agreed to propose the following items for the agenda for its next plenary meeting:
- Examination of thematic reports from the thematic visits to Austria (March 2017), Lithuania (April 2017), Ukraine (April 2017) and Georgia (June 2017);
 - Presentations of their respective National Roma Integration Strategies or Action Plans by the Russian Federation, Slovenia, and Turkey, as well as on recent developments by Sweden;
 - Presentation by Serbia on Roma during the First World War;
 - Presentation by ECMI of various definitions in member States concerning ethnic, national, indigenous minorities or communities, as well as vulnerable groups;
 - Roma youth¹⁶;
 - Developments at the level of the European Commission (including DG-REGIO) and FRA;
 - Exchange of views with Ms Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director;
 - Exchange with Canada on issues related to the pre-boarding screening of international passengers, in particular persons of Roma ethnic origin, from various European airports;
 - Exchange of views with the two ad hoc rapporteurs of the Dialogue meeting with Roma and Traveller civil society, provided a dialogue meeting takes place prior to the CAHROM;
 - Exchange of views with relevant CoE entities and monitoring bodies¹⁷ based on questions to/from CAHROM participants and as a follow-up of CAHROM thematic reports/visits;
 - Update from CAHROM members from Austria, Belgium, Germany and Sweden on the current situation as regards the return of Roma to Serbia and to possibly other regions of Western Balkans;
 - Results of the 6th International Roma Women's Conference to be held in Bucharest on 4-5 September 2017 on the political participation of women: the case of Roma and Travellers;
 - Results of the International Conference "Roma and LGBTI - at the crossroads of discrimination" to be held in Strasbourg on 9 June 2017.

Adoption of the list of decisions (abridged report)

47. The Committee received a paper copy of the draft abridged report and took note of the preliminary list of decisions. It decided to adopt it by 15 June 2017 by written procedure, once it was proof-read and translated into French and circulated again by the Secretariat to all participants.

¹⁶ A more precise topic will be provided by the Youth Department following consultation with the German CAHROM member.

¹⁷ For instance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Gender Equality Unit, the SOGI Unit, the Children Rights' Department, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Parliamentary Assembly, CDDH, CDPPE, CAHENF, CCJ, CDCJ, GRETA and GREVIO.

Appendix I

**AGENDA OF THE 13TH CAHROM PLENARY MEETING, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
31 MAY-3 JUNE 2017 [document (2017)6 from 31 May 2017]**

Wednesday, 31 May 2017

1st SIDE EVENT: 5th CO-ORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

I. OPENING OF THE 13th CAHROM MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

II. REMEMBERING ROMA HOLOCAUST, TEACHING ROMA HISTORY, ROMANI ARTS AND CULTURE, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND COMBATING HATE SPEECH AND ANTI-GYPSYISM

- a) Czech initiatives
- b) Other member States' initiatives
- c) Transnational initiatives

III. EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE CAHROM AND CZECH (ROMA) CIVIL SOCIETY AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING ERIAC

- a) Introduction of Czech NGOs present who highlight their initiatives on community work and action and their empowerment strategies
- b) Recent developments concerning the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC)

2nd SIDE EVENT ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION / DG NEAR (restricted)

Thursday, 1 June 2017

IV. CAHROM'S REFORM, WORKING METHODS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE 2018-2019

V. CAHROM'S THEMATIC VISITS AND REPORTS

VI. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OPEN QUESTIONS TO CAHROM MEMBERS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

- a) Recent developments at national level
- b) Open questions to CAHROM members and international participants/observers, including on joint EU/CoE programmes

VII. DRAFT CM RECOMMENDATION ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ROMA AND TRAVELLERS IN EUROPE

Friday, 2 June 2017

VIII. PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS CAHROM THEMATIC REPORTS, FOLLOWED BY A DEBRIEFING SESSION IN PLENARY

IX. EXCHANGE WITH OTHER RAPPORTEURS, NOMINATION OF NEW CAHROM RAPPORTEURS

- a) Exchange with rapporteurs from other Council of Europe entities/committees
- b) Nomination of new CAHROM rapporteurs

X. ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING

XI. ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT (LIST OF DECISIONS)

Saturday, 3 June 2017

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND THE WAY FORWARD ("WHAT COMES NEXT") – 2nd DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

VISIT OF THE MUSEUM OF ROMANI CULTURE IN BRNO

KHAMORO FESTIVAL CLOSING GALA EVENING

Appendix II

FINAL DRAFT
RECOMMENDATION CM/REC (2017) XX OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ROMA AND TRAVELLERS IN EUROPE

**as endorsed by the CAHROM by written procedure following the 13th meeting in Prague.
The text is submitted to the Committee of Ministers, via the GR-SOC, for consideration**

[to be completed with the endorsed version of the draft recommendation once adopted by the CAHROM through a written procedure]