





4 September 2019

CAHROM (2019)18 final corr

Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller¹ Issues (CAHROM)

17th meeting Toulouse, France, 11-14 June 2019

List of items discussed and decisions taken

Opening

- 1. The Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) held its 17th meeting in Toulouse, France, from 11-14 June 2019, in the framework of the French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and in co-operation with the Interministerial Delegate for Accommodation and Access to Housing (*Délégué interministériel pour l'hébergement et l'accès au logement des personnes sans abri ou mal logées (DIHAL)*) and the City of Toulouse.
- 2. The meeting was chaired by Ms Tatjana Anđelić (Montenegro, CAHROM Chair) and partly by Mr Jan Hero (Slovak Republic, CAHROM Vice-Chair).
- 3. Apologies were noted. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. The Agenda was adopted as set out in document CAHROM (2019)5 final.
- 4. Welcome addresses were delivered by Mr Sylvain Mathieu, Interministerial Delegate for Accommodation and Access to Housing (DIHAL), who briefly characterised the French interministerial approach to Roma and Traveller inclusion to be founded on the fundamental principle of equality before the law and thus based on needs rather than on origin or ethnicity, while at the same time politically and legally sanctioning discrimination and racism, and Mr Daniel Rougé, Deputy Mayor of Toulouse in charge of the coordination of social affairs and solidarity, who explained the concept of Toulouse as an 'inclusive city' which under the principle of equality in diversity assures that the different needs of its citizens are met, for example through the clearance of slums and the provision of social housing coupled with the professional and social inclusion through work.

The Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM):

5. noted with satisfaction that the Committee of Ministers had taken note of the abridged report of the 16th CAHROM meeting (*Strasbourg*, 16-19 October 2018) on 6 February 2019;

6. thanked both the Finnish and the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers for having put the issue of Roma and Travellers so high on the European political agenda, by having hosted the 7th International Roma Women's Conference in Espoo in March 2019 and by hosting this 17th CAHROM meeting in Toulouse, respectively;

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. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Recent developments

- 7. took note of recent developments at Council of Europe level, namely:
- 1) the Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, adopted on 17 May 2019, reaffirming the importance of the promotion of equality, diversity, and tolerance as well as the fight against discrimination;
- 2) the conclusions and recommendations from the meeting of the Ukrainian Alliance of cities and regions on Roma inclusion "Local Action for Roma Safety" (Lviv, Ukraine, 26 February 2019) and Future activities of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion, as presented by Mr John Warmisham, Rapporteur on Roma and Traveller Issues of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe, who, referring to the "Declaration of Mayors and local and regional elected representatives of Council of Europe member states against anti-Gypsyism", stressed the need to fight that specific form of racism, amongst others by changing the discourse on Roma and by involving Roma and Travellers in all policy making that affects them, and invited the Mayor of Toulouse to sign that declaration which to date counted 122 signatories from all over Europe:
- 3) the conclusions of the Informal Contact Group meeting that took place at the European Youth Centre (EYC) in Strasbourg on 13-14 May 2019 and future activities foreseen in the implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan, including a Roma youth participation seminar planned to take place in Strasbourg in September 2019, as presented by Ms Neringa Tumėnaitė, member of the Joint Council on Youth and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, who stressed the need to maintain the double mainstreaming approach concerning Roma youth (i.e. mainstreaming Roma issues in youth policies and mainstreaming youth issues in Roma policies) also in the Council of Europe's post-2019 strategic policy document on Roma and Traveller inclusion;
- 4) the conclusions and recommendations from the 7th International Roma Women's Conference 'Access to Justice and Rights' (Espoo, Finland, 25-27 March 2019) organised under the Finnish Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, and attended by some 100 Roma and Traveller women, as presented by Ms Berill Baranyai, CAHROM member for Portugal and substitute Gender Equality Rapporteur;
- 5) the conclusions and recommendations from the CoE Conference "Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism", (Helsinki, Finland, 28-29 March 2019) organised under the Finnish Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, as presented by Ms Mabera Kamberi, CAHROM member for North Macedonia and CAHROM Gender Equality Rapporteur, and in that context welcomed the CM/Rec(2019)1 Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the member States on Preventing and Combating Sexism and decided to invite a GEC Secretariat to present the CM Recommendations at the next CAHROM meeting;
- 6) the conclusions and recommendations of the 7th Council of Europe Dialogue meeting with Roma and Traveller Civil Society (Strasbourg, 11-12 April 2019) on family rights in relation to the right to housing and the fight against evictions, as presented by the Secretariat;
- 7) the conclusions and recommendations of the 6th meeting of the Council of Europe-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET "Operational Platform on Roma Equality (OPRE)", Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 14-15 May 2019;
- 8) the past and future contribution by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the oldest European multilateral bank with an exclusively social vocation, to the integration of Roma and Travellers as presented by Ms Rosa Maria Sanchez-Yebra Alonso, Vice-Governor of the CEB, who showed concrete examples of loans and grants provided by the CEB in the fields of education, incl. vocational training, social housing, access to employment, access to health care, while stressing that future challenges in achieving sustainable and inclusive growth would lie in investing into soft skills rather than technical infrastructure, in developing innovative financing instruments, and in expanding guarantees for microfinance;

8. held and exchange with Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-discrimination, in relation to latest developments at the Council of Europe and their possible implications on CAHROM, and took note of the fact that, in line with the Declaration and Decisions adopted at the Helsinki ministerial meeting of the Committee of Ministers (17 May 2019), the Secretary General of the Council of Europe proposed to create a new Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion and as one of its subordinate bodies a Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller issues, in order to reinforce the role of intergovernmental committees and the capacity of the Council of Europe to tackle new emerging issues, such as the increase in nationalism, intolerance, discrimination, racism, hate speech and hate crime;

9. took note of recent developments at European Union and international level, namely:

- 1) a summary of recent developments in relation to Roma at European Union level, such as the publication of the Commission's Communication on the evaluation of the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies in December 2018 and the ongoing preparations for a potential post-2020 initiative, as well as activities since the last CAHROM, in particular during the March 2019 EU Roma Week and the Romanian EU Presidency, as presented by Ms Gesa Boeckermann, European Commission (DG JUSTICE), who also referred to the EU/Council of Europe Joint Programme on access to justice of Roma women (JUSTROM2), the continuation of which as JUSTROM3 is currently being prepared by the relevant Council of Europe and European Commission services; and of activities falling under the responsibility of DG NEAR, as reported by CAHROM delegates;
- 2) an update on the EU MIDIS and the Roma and Travellers survey in 6 EU member states, as presented by Mr Jaroslav Kling, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);
- 3) recent developments concerning the initiative with, among others, Soraya Post MEP, to develop committees for the truth about anti-Gypsyism, as presented by Ms Belen Rodriguez de Alba, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);

10. took note of recent developments at national level, namely:

- 1) conclusions from the Youth Training Workshop on Roma Genocide Education organised by the Council of Europe Youth Service in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 5-8 November 2018, the launch by the Department of National Minorities under the Government of the Lithuanian translation of the Council of Europe Handbook "Right to Remember a Handbook for Education with Young People on the Roma Genocide" and the delivery theatrical and musical "Samudaripen A Girl from the Wagon" by Sare Roma band, as presented by Ms Gražina Sluško, CAHROM member for Lithuania;
- 2) a presentation of a project on the collection of audio-visual and written testimonies archives of internees as Nomads in France (1940-1946) by Mr Ilsen About, researcher at the l'Ecole de Hautes Etudes en sciences sociales, who had gathered more than 136 testimonies from survivors;
- 3) an brief introduction to the history, culture and current situation of Yenish in Switzerland, many of whom still practice a semi-itinerant life-style, following the screening of the film "Unerhört jenisch" at the last CAHROM meeting, as presented by Ms Sophie Heegaard-Schroeter, CAHROM member for Switzerland;
- 4) the results of the international conference entitled "Innovation Romani Inclusion / Teaching Romani in line with the Methodology of Teaching Foreign Languages", held under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic on 5–6 April 2019 in Bratislava, as presented by Mr Jan Hero, CAHROM Vice-Chair and member for the Slovak Republic, who also referred to the important role of the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) in Graz, Austria, and the Curriculum Framework for Romani and European Language Portfolio models for learners;
- 11. discussed the responses to the question addressed to all CAHROM members by the member from Poland about existing legal texts and practices which condition the financial support of the state or the municipality (e.g. for the granting of social benefits), which showed the different approaches in the member states, while

duly noting that according to a decision by the European Committee of Social Rights², the suspension or termination of family allowances or child benefits because of failure to attend school may constitute a violation of Article 16 of the European Social Charter as it increases the economic and social vulnerably of the children concerned, if the measure is not proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued to reduce school absenteeism and encourage pupils return to school;

12. agreed to keep this item on the agenda of its 18th meeting, Strasbourg, 28-31 October 2019, and invited all CAHROM delegations who so wish to update or complete the information contained in the compilation set out in document CAHROM(2019)15, and to submit their contribution to the Secretariat **by 30 June 2019**;

Programme of activities and working methods

- 13. reviewed the Thematic Report on the development of Roma integration policies and coordination practices in countries where there are few Roma, based on the CAHROM thematic visit to Rīga, Jelgava and Jūrmala, Latvia, on 3-5 October 2018, noted that a certain amount of information and data was missing, invited the relevant delegations to complete the report **by 15 July 2019** with a view to submitting the report to its 18th meeting for final endorsement;
- 14. reviewed the Thematic Report on solving statelessness and lack of identity documents within the Roma community, based on the CAHROM thematic visit to Tirana, Albania, on 14-16 November 2018, noted that a certain amount of information and data was missing, invited the relevant delegations to complete the report **by 15 July 2019** with a view to submitting the report to its 18th meeting for final endorsement;
- 15. discussed its programme of activities and the list and composition of thematic groups and thematic visits, noting that the visits on Roma self-reliability and responsibility to participate in society as any other citizen would be held in Kharkiv, Ukraine, from 24 to 26 June 2019, while confirming that other thematic visits to Finland, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom, envisaged for the second half of 2019, would be subject to the availability of financial and human resources, and may therefore need to be postponed;
- 16. took note of the offer of the CAHROM delegate from North Macedonia to host a thematic visit in 2021 on social protection, child protection and non-discrimination, and of the proposal by the delegate from Moldova to include "the policing of Roma communities" in the list of possible future thematic visits;
- 17. reviewed the draft Recommendation on the inclusion of Roma and/or Travellers' history in school curricula and teaching materials, invited CAHROM delegations who so wish to comment on document CAHROM(2018)26prov5 in track changes and to send their contribution to the Secretariat by 30 June 2019;
- 18. entrusted its Drafting Group with the task of finalising the text at a meeting of the Group to be held in September 2019 (possibly on 12 September 2019 in conjunction with the 13 September 2019 CAHROM Bureau meeting);
- 19. asked the Secretariat to make available to the Committee the version of the Draft Recommendation produced by the Drafting Group at the above-mentioned meeting, well in time for the next CAHROM meeting; agreed to review the Draft Recommendation at its 18^{th} meeting, scheduled to be held in Strasbourg on 28-31 October 2019, with a view to approving and submitting it to the Committee of Minsters for adoption as a CM Recommendation;
- 20. discussed the geographical and/or social location of Roma and Traveller communities in selected member states, based on a comparative analysis presented by Ms Zora Popova, Senior Researcher, European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI);

² European Committee of Social Rights, Decision on the merits adopted on 16 October 2018, Complaint No. 121/2016, Equal Rights Trust v. Bulgaria.

- 21. held an exchange on the collection of data on hate crime, taking note of:
- 1) True Vision", a police-run online hate crime reporting portal, of the "Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment (GATE)" community-led organisation and its Report Racism GRT hate incident reporting site and victim support service run by and for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK, and of the cyber hate working group established by the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism, as presented by Mr William Hannam, CAHROM member for the United Kingdom;
- 2) the improvements in data collection related to hate crimes, anti-Gypsyism, and other recent developments, through the Hate Crimes National Office, e.g. the inclusion of 'ethnicity' as general aggravating circumstance in the Spanish Criminal Code and the inclusion, in 2019, of 'anti-Gypsyism' in the list of bias motivations, as presented by Mr Carlos Moran Ferres, National Bureau for Hate Crimes, Secretariat for Security, Coordination and Studies, Ministry of Interior, Spain;
- 3) OSCE-ODIHR mandated activities on fighting hate crime such as the publication of annual ODIHR Hate Crime Reports and the provision of non-discrimination training for the policy force and law enforcement officials, as presented by Mr Dan Doghi, Chief of the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, (CPRSI);
- 22. agreed to keep this item on the agenda of its 18th meeting, Strasbourg, 28-31 October 2019;
- 23. discussed its working methods and endorsed the updated CAHROM information document, the Guidelines for CAHROM rapporteurs and their substitutes, the List of CAHROM members and their substitutes, CAHROM Bureau members and CAHROM rapporteurs and their substitutes and the Guidelines for the CAHROM Bureau and hosting authorities of thematic visits;

Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019

24. held an exchange on the implementation of the Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019), based on the two available implementation reports, the report of the 6th Dialogue meeting with Roma and Traveller civil society (Strasbourg, 15-16 October 2018), the analytical summary of the 7th International Roma Women's Conference (Espoo, Finland, March 2019, and the conclusions and recommendations of the 6th meeting of the Operational Platform on Roma Equality (OPRE) (Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 14-15 May 2019);

Post-2019 strategic document on Roma and Traveller Inclusion

25. dicussed with Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-discrimination, the prospects of a strategic action plan for the inclusion of Roma and Travellers after 2019, based on the document "Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) [Working title]. Preliminary Outline", made some initial comments orally, expressing general support for the initiative and the preliminary outline, and asked all CAHROM delegations who so wish to submit written comments on the document to the Secretariat **preferably by 7 July 2019** and **at the very latest by 12 July 2019**;

Exchange with the French authorities

26. held an exchange with the French authorities, in particular Mr Sylvain Mathieu, Interministerial Delegate for Accommodation and Access to Housing (DIHAL) and Mr Dominique Raimbourg, President of the National Consultative Committee for Travellers, and Mr Daniel Rougé, Deputy Mayor of Toulouse in charge of the coordination of social affairs and solidarity, and noted that:

1) the 26 August 2012 government circular concerning the anticipation and accompaniment of dismantling of illegal campsites is complemented by the government instruction of 25 January 2018 on a global and inter-ministerial framework, involving 8 ministries, calling for a paradigm shift from a narrow focus on slum evacuations/clearance (*la resorption des bidonvilles*) to a broader approach reaching from the prevention of slum formation to final slum clearance, including integration programmes (accommodation, healthcare, education, employment) as well as return programmes, and their accompanying measures and interdisciplinary partnerships at local, regional, national, and transnational levels;

- 2) DIHAL is responsible for the implementation of the related national action plan in line with the national "Housing First" programme (*Le logement d'abord 2018-2022*), in order to enable equal access to rights and to combat precariousness through the provision of housing and accompanying social inclusion measures;
- 3) in 2018, 1,840 persons were provided with housing, 974 obtained employment, and 80% of children were enrolled in school;
- 4) in that context, DIHAL had published an overview of local initiatives and measures, in which the city of Toulouse is mentioned as example of good practice because slums have been sustainably cleared and/or the slum population has considerably decreased in numbers, showing that the path to successful integration requires solid social support, involving all relevant state agencies, local authorities and civil society;
- 5) Roma inclusion policies of the City of Toulouse focus on the following 5 axes: 1) accommodation, 2) education, 3) health care 4) employment 5) fight against discrimination;
- 6) the city's strategic approach consists of proposing housing solutions (desegregated in the city) to each Roma family from the camps, accompanied by a social support programme, which is entrusted to associations who work together with all relevant public services to complement the provision of housing by ensuring access to schooling, healthcare, and employment;
- 7) the success of 'the Toulouse model' is based on:
 - Providing support through social workers and interpreters in accessing mainstream services,
 - Co-operation between the city, the department, and the state services as well as NGOs,
 - Identifying and using resource persons in the Roma camps to build trust and involve them,
 - Coupling housing provision with job insertion,
 - Creating a steering committee formed of city services, state services, and associations;

27. carried out a technical visit to a halting site, a family rental site, and a site for large-scale short-term/seasonal stay (aire d'acceuil grands passages) for French Travellers (Gens du voyage) in Tournefeuille, and in that context held an exchange with Mme Desmettre, Deputy Mayor of Tournefeuille, Mr Vermeersch from the NGO "Action grand passage (AGP)", Mr Renosi from the society managing the sites, and some members of the Traveller community;

Next CAHROM meeting

28. confirmed that the 18th CAHROM meeting would take place in Strasbourg on 28-31 October 2019;

29. proposed that the following topics be included in the agenda of its 18th meeting:

- 1) Finalisation of the draft CM Recommendation on Roma and Traveller History Teaching
- 2) Endorsement of two thematic reports (Albania and Latvia) pending from the 17th CAHROM meeting
- 3) Discussion of three new thematic reports (Croatia, Germany, Ukraine) with a view to their endorsement
- 4) Questions to all CAHROM members on conditionalities and on education
- 5) Exchange with the Secretariat of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), notably on CM/Rec(2019)1 Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the member States on Preventing and Combating Sexism
- 6) Exchange with the Education Department on Romani language teaching
- 7) Combating hate speech and hate crime, incl. relevant activities of the Council of Europe Youth Department
- 8) Roma Holocaust Remembrance, incl. an exchange with a representative of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)
- 9) Presentation of the Council of Europe's Roma Youth Action Plan
- 10) Countries with a small Roma population
- 11) Access to quality inclusive education for Roma children, and measuring their educational progress
- 12) Exchage of experience on Roma-sensitive budgeting
- 13) Exchange of experience on migration of vulnarable europen citizens in Europe

30. entrusted its Bureau with the task of preparing the draft agenda for the 18th CAHROM meeting, while noting that the next CAHROM Bureau meeting was scheduled to take place on 13 September 2019;

31. took note of the fact that the Georgian Government considers hosting a relevant event in the context of the forthcoming Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2019-May 2020);

Closing

- 32. thanked the French authorities, and in particular the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Interministerial Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing (DIHAL), and the City of Toulouse, for their warm and passionate hospitality and their perfect organisation of this meeting;
- 33. adopted the list of items discussed and decisions taken of its 17^{th} meeting on 14 June 2019 at 16:00 hrs.

APPENDIX 1

17th Meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues / 17^{ème} réunion du Comité ad hoc d'Experts sur les questions roms et Gens du voyage (CAHROM)

Toulouse, France, 11-14 June 2019 / Toulouse, France, les 11-14 juin 2019

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3rd Bureau member/3e membre du bureau: Ms Merita XHAFAJ (Albania/Albanie)

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APPENDIX 2

Deadlines for the exchange of documents in preparation of the 18th CAHROM meeting

(as decided at the 17th CAHROM meeting, Toulouse, France, 11-14 June 2019)

Date	Actor	Action	Document reference
30 June 2019	All delegations	Update and/or complement information on conditionalities	CAHROM(2019)15
	All delegations	Submit concrete and specific drafting proposal in track changes on the inclusion of	CAHOM(2018)26prov5
		Roma and/or Travellers' history in school curricula and teaching materials	
7 July 2019	All delegations	Submit written comments on the document "Council of Europe Strategic Action	
preferably		Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) [Working title]. Preliminary	
12 July 2019		Outline"	
at the very latest			
15 July 2019	Delegations concerned	Complete the Thematic Report on the development of Roma integration policies	CAHROM(2018)20
		and coordination practices in countries where there are few Roma (Latvia)	
	Delegations concerned	Complete the Thematic Report on solving statelessness and lack of identity	CAHROM(2018)21
		documents within the Roma community (Albania)	
Forthcoming meetings			
12 September 2019	CAHROM Drafting	4 th meeting, Paris	
12 deptember 2017	Group	1	
13 September 2019	CAHROM Bureau	18 th meeting, Paris	
28-31 October 2019	CAHROM	18 th meeting, Strasbourg	