



The European Commission's approach to Roma inclusion 2008-2010 and the Roma Platform

**europaean platform for
roma inclusion**

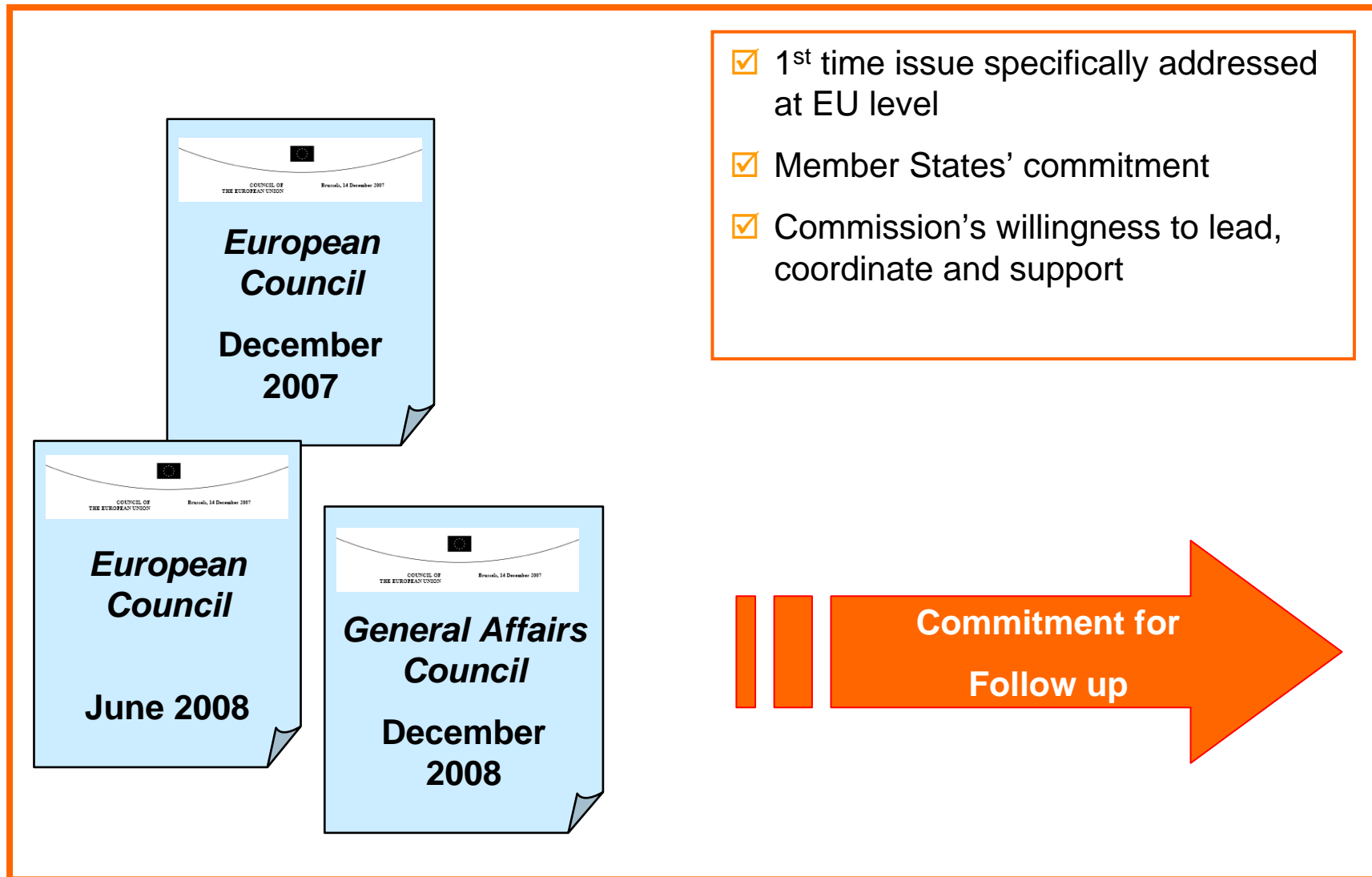
Meeting of the EUROMA network Management Committee

Joachim Ott
European Commission
DG for Employment, Social affairs and Equal opportunities

Budapest, May 7, 2009



Context: Council conclusions in 2007-2008





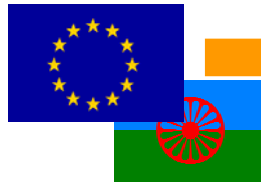
Developments 2008-2010

EP reports and Pilot Project Council conclusions
EESC opinion

Commission non-discrimination Communication and report on Roma Inclusion
1st EU Roma Summit

Preparatory experts meeting and first seminar of EU Platform for Roma Inclusion in Prague

Commission Progress report on Roma Inclusion
2nd EU Roma Summit



Civil society advocacy and cooperation

Meeting of the EU Platform for Roma Inclusion

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Implementation of the platform



- Platform as a **process** driven by stakeholders (EU institutions, committed Member States, international organizations and civil society) and their actions
- Key roles of EU **Presidencies**: maintain political momentum in Council work and through EU Roma Summits and platform events
- **European Commission** is willing to lead by example as key stakeholder through action and deliverance of tangible results
- **Basic principles** as key for success: development of Common Basic Principles by Czech Presidency
- Need for complementary and mutually reinforcing **action** undertaken by the Member States and the EU in the limits of their **competencies**





70 participants from

- CZ, SE, ES Presidencies
- EU institutions
- Civil society

Huge media interest

- Print
- AV

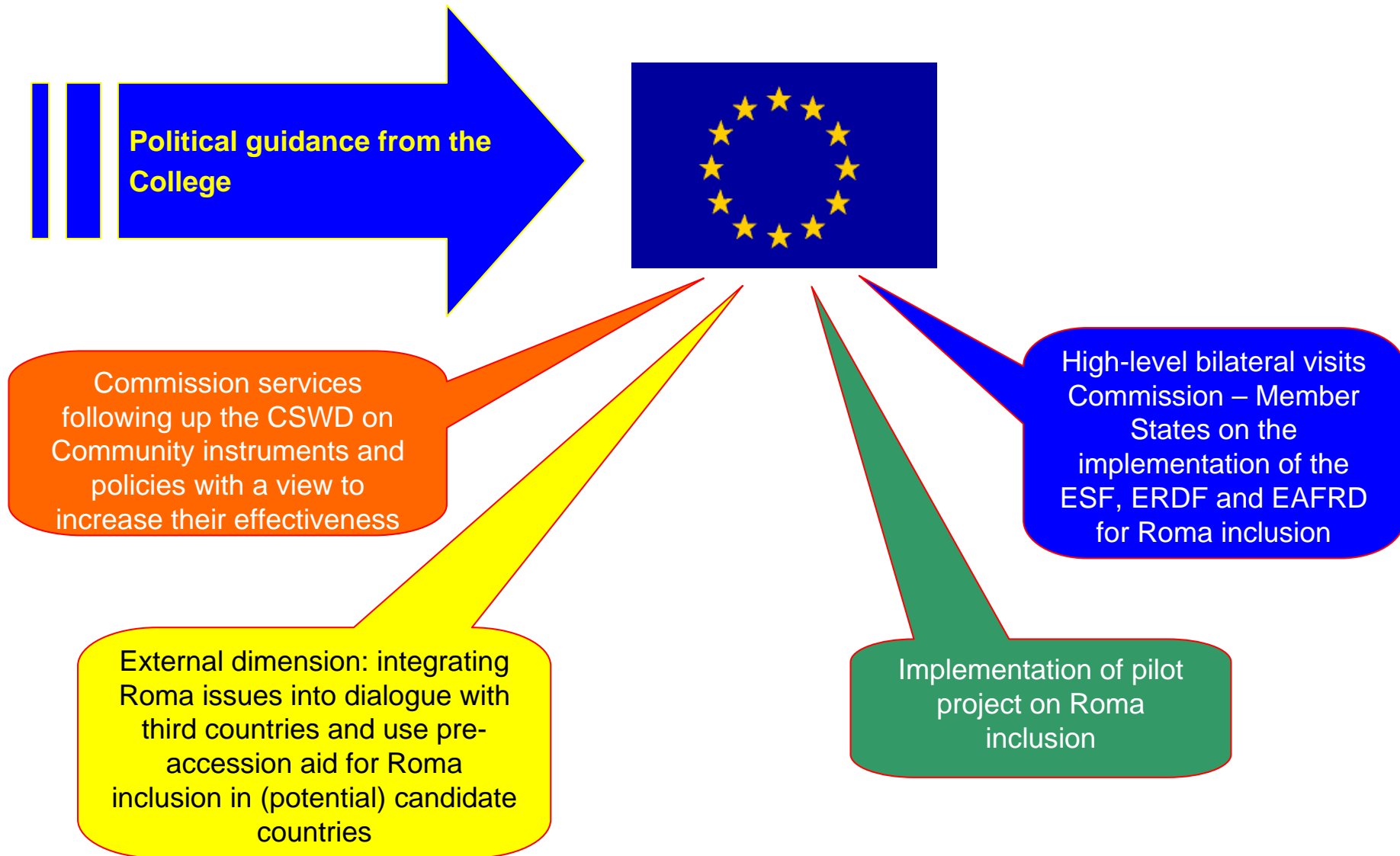
Highlights

- Common Basic Principles
- Commission contents
- Open stakeholder debate

european platform for
roma inclusion



Policy content from Commission



Follow-up of CSWD – concrete examples



Rights and legal instruments

- enforcement of existing legislation
- support of awareness-raising and capacity building for practitioners (i.a. lawyers, NGOs, trade unions)
- enhancement of knowledge about rights
- support of cooperation among Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

Policy analysis, coordination and financial support

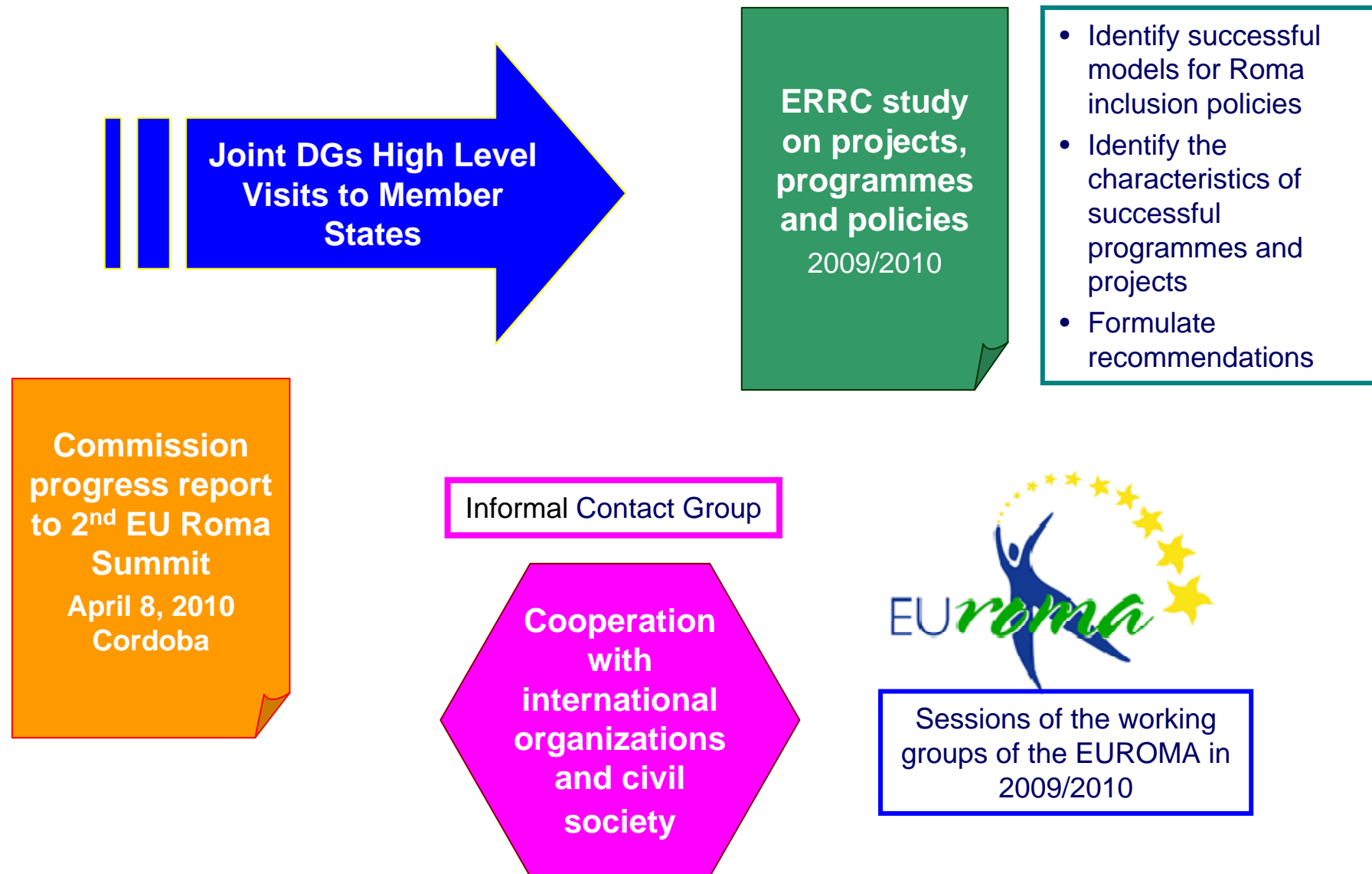
- review of effectiveness of projects and policies for Roma inclusion
- examination of situation of Roma women
- integrating Roma aspect in mainstream policy processes
- addressing issue of data collection
- promotion of cooperation between Member States
- definition of specific initiatives for the inclusion of Roma
- promotion of using the Structural Funds for inclusion of Roma
- capacity building of Roma (and non-Roma) civil society
- identification and dissemination of good practice

Governance

- monitoring the progress on the ground in close cooperation with civil society and local actors
- communicating the problems, possible solutions and success factors for improving Roma inclusion



Next steps





Common Basic Principles for Roma inclusion

- (1) Constructive, pragmatic, non-discriminatory policies
- (2) Explicit but exclusive targeting
- (3) Inter-cultural approach
- (4) Aiming for the mainstream
- (5) Awareness of gender dimension
- (6) Transfer of evidence-based policies
- (7) Use of Community instruments
- (8) Involvement of regional and local authorities
- (9) Involvement of civil society
- (10) Active participation of Roma



Conclusions



- ✓ The approach of the **platform** as driven by **concrete action** and precise commitments from stakeholders has the potential to make change happen
- ✓ The **Common Basic Principles** can serve as a political orientation for Member States and support them in stepping up their commitments
- ✓ The Commission delivers on its **commitment** to follow up the analysis of Community instruments and policies and make them more effective for Roma inclusion
- ✓ This follow up process is **on track** and will **deliver results** by the next EU Roma Summit
- ✓ The combination of a **targeted and a mainstreaming approach** is an important success factor
- ✓ Reporting in the **media** has a crucial impact

