

FRA Roundtable with Romani and Travellers women activists 'On a road to Equality'

Hotel Conquistador, Magistral González Francés st, 15-17, 14003 Cordoba

Cordoba, 6-7 April 2010

06 April 2010

13:00-14:30 Registration

14:30-15:00 Welcome and Objectives of the Roundtable

Speakers:

Eva Sobotka, FRA; Anastasia Crickley, FRA (Chairperson of the Roundtable)

15:00-16:30 Effective and sustainable reach out to grassroots and local authorities

Speakers: Eva Sobotka, Nicoleta Bitu

16:30 – 17:00 Break

17:00 – 17:15 Objectives of the Roma Summit

Speaker: Eva Sobotka

17:15-17:30 Assessment of EU policies on Roma/ Romani women and

Overview

Speakers:

Nicoleta Bitu, Eva Sobotka

17:30–17:45 Gender, inequalities and discrimination

Overview

Speaker: Ostalinda Maya

17:45-18:30 Discussion of Key Messages for the Summit and the FRA

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20:00

Dinner at Restaurante Almudaina

7 April 2010

9:30 – 11:30 Roma health and social inequalities

Overview and Discussion of Key Messages for the Summit

Speakers: Nicoleta Bitu, Michail Beis (FRA)

11:30 – 12:00 Break

12:00-13:30 Use of Community instruments; How can EU instruments be more effective at the local level?

Overview and Discussion of Key Messages for the Summit, European Commission and the FRA

Speakers: Letitia Mark, Iliana Balabanova-Stoycheva, Ilona Negro (EC)

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 16:30 Anti-Gypsyism, hate crime and other forms of intolerance

Overview and Discussion of Key Messages for the Summit and the FRA

Speaker: Michail Beis – FRA report on EU-MIDIS

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-17:30 Conclusions and Next Steps

20:00 Informal discussion with Morten Kjaerum, Director of the FRA

Background Information:

The issue of the **Roma** has **acquired political relevance** on the **European agenda** in recent years. In addition to various **resolutions by the European Parliament**, it has been included on the **agenda of the Council, the Commission** has taken a number of measures and new political instruments and institutional mechanisms have been developed. The **FRA** has addressed the situation of the Roma since late 1990s (under EUMC) **through research and informing policy**. More recently, the FRA has been mandated to conduct **awareness raising of fundamental rights** and has engaged in **stakeholder consultation** on its future work on Roma and Travellers in 2008 **and networking**, liaising its operation, especially with **Romani women networks (2005-2008)**. Most recently, last year, the FRA held a **Joint international conference on Roma and freedom of movement** and migration and a **Roundtable on Housing**, where it presented **results of its research** on the two areas.

Key issues addressed at FRA Roundtable include:

- ✓ EU policies on Roma/ Romani women: progress and limitations
- ✓ Awareness of the gender dimension. Gender, inequalities and discrimination
- ✓ Networking with the Romani grassroots and local authorities: FRA and Romani women
- ✓ Roma health and social inequalities
- ✓ Anti-Gypsyism, hate crime and other forms of intolerance

Objectives of the Roundtable:

1. Provide space for Romani & Traveller women and organisations to:
 - ✓ discuss the gender dimension in their experiences of inequality
 - ✓ discuss the gender dimension in the issues and inequalities to be discussed at the summit
 - ✓ enhance their awareness of EU instruments relevant to addressing these issues
2. Provide a space for Romani & Traveller women and organisations to pursue strategically towards ensuring
 - ✓ a gender dimension in the summits deliberations, conclusions and outcomes
 - ✓ an ongoing gender dimension re. all plans and policies to address Romani & Traveller concerns
 - ✓ specific policy responses to respond to gendered concerns of Romani & Traveller women
3. Strengthen awareness, understanding and co-operation between Romani & Traveller Women and organisations and FRA.

Questions to answer at the Roundtable:

1. Are FRA Roma and Travellers research activities well-crafted? Is there anything that could be improved or done differently in order for you to plan/execute your work more effectively?
2. How can the FRA, in cooperation with the Romani women reach out to grassroots and local authorities?
3. What should be the priority areas (name 3) that the Agency should explore in its research, awareness raising and networking in 2012?
4. Do you consider that there is a concrete added value in networking? Do you want to join FRA's network on Roma and Travellers issues? What would you need or expect from FRA with regard to networking on Roma and Travellers issues?