



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12 AVR. 2012  
C/2012/2276 final

Dear President,

*I would like to thank you for transmitting the Opinion of the Senát on the European Commission's Communication "An EU Framework for national Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020" {COM(2011) 173 final}.*

*The Commission takes note of the views expressed therein, and apologises for the undue delay in replying.*

*The EU Framework seeks to make a tangible difference in Roma people's lives. It is the EU's response to the current unacceptable situation faced by a large proportion Roma population. It does not replace Member States' primary responsibility in this regard. The EU Framework is meant to complement and reinforce the EU's equality legislation and policies by addressing at national, regional and local level the specific needs of Roma regarding equal access to employment, education, housing and healthcare.*

*With this EU Framework, the European Commission encourages all Member States, in proportion to the size of the Roma population living in their territories and taking account their different starting points, to adopt, or to develop further a comprehensive approach to Roma integration. Member States were requested to prepare or revise their national Roma integration strategies and present them to the Commission by the end of December 2011. When designing or revising these strategies, Member States are expected to closely cooperate with Roma civil society and regional and local authorities. The European Commission received the national integration strategy from the Czech Republic on 19 January 2012.*

*The European Council supported this approach in its meeting of 23-24 June 2011 by validating the Council Conclusions of 19 May 2011 on the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020.*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH  
President of the Senate of the  
Parliament of the Czech Republic  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
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*The Commission will assess the national Roma integration strategies and will report to the Council and to the European Parliament very soon.*

*National Parliaments will be duly informed about this assessment.*

*I am looking forward to further develop our political dialogue.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*