



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2019) 8562 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Report on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies {COM(2019) 406 final}.

The 2019 Report on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies summarises the most important trends focusing on the four policy areas of the EU framework (education, employment, health, housing), as well as fighting discrimination and antigypsyism (based on existing evaluations, feedback from civil society and National Roma Contact Points).

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's support for further improvement of the policy areas of the EU Framework on National Roma Integration Strategies aimed at education, employment, health and housing, as well as the collection of data on best practices on the fight against discrimination and negative attitudes towards Roma at European level. As part of the integrated approach to Roma inclusion, put forward by the current EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, the 2019 Report highlights that several of the 863 measures implemented in 2017 contributed to improvement in more than one thematic area.

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The Commission appreciates the strong emphasis of the Camera Deputaţilor on the need to addressing education, fighting discrimination and hostile attitudes towards Roma as part of an inclusive European social model. The 2019 Report on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies concludes that education is the area with the highest number of interventions and evaluations taken by the Member States. The most widespread achievement mentioned by National Roma Contact Points in the area of education is mediation. The policy lessons in this area include among others the need to combine explicit active desegregation and continuous complex support measures to promote integration of Roma children in mainstream education and their transition between educational levels and to employment.

The Commission equally acknowledges the reference made by the Camera Deputaţilor to enable exchange platforms between Member States on the organisation of vaccination campaigns, disease prevention and screening programmes, improving hygiene, health conditions and access to health services. In this sense, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the Camera Deputaţilor to the conclusions of the 2018 European Platform for Roma inclusion¹, which had a thematic focus on the health² and housing³ inequalities endured by Roma. As for the 2019 Report on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies, it identifies as a major challenge in the area of health the notable lack of reference to antidiscrimination efforts; improving hygienic living conditions; and access to healthy food. Policy learning in this area includes the need for targeted support services, which should actively aim to improve health awareness, change behaviours and build long-term self-reliance and ability of Roma to engage with mainstream institutions, instead of dependence on permanent intermediaries and long-term parallel structures.

The Commission takes note of the Camera Deputaţilor's view on the development and implementation of programmes at European level to combat the lack of self-confidence of Roma people. The Commission understands this point made by Camera Deputaţilor as a form of support for empowerment programmes. Whilst the Commission has put forward tools to support Roma inclusion measures at all levels, including specific programmes to promote Roma empowerment and participation, Member States must equally support the active citizenship of Roma by promoting their social, economic, political and cultural participation in society, including at the local level. One of the main messages of the 2019 Report indicates that the achievements most often mentioned by National Roma Contact Points concerned measures aiming at improving the conditions of Roma women and children, combating antigypsyism by breaking stereotypes or promoting Roma culture and history, and involving all relevant actors (public authorities, civil society and Roma communities) in efforts to promote anti-discrimination.

¹ More information on the platform can be found here: [2018 European Platform for Roma inclusion](#)

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european_platform_for_roma_inclusion_-_health_workshop_-_reporting_0.pdf

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european_platform_for_roma_inclusion-housing_workshop-reporting.pdf

With a view to further involvement of all relevant actors in view of consultation meetings between authorities and civil society, the Commission kindly refers to the previously mentioned examples of best practices and peer learning on Roma inclusion that have been actively and consistently promoted by the Commission, both at the European and national level. These examples account for the organisation of the annual European Platform for Roma Inclusion, support for the Member States to establish National Roma Platforms, or the Commission's regular consultation meetings with Roma and pro-Roma civil society and international actors held in Brussels.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Didier Reynders
Member of the Commission*