



Plenary sitting

06/02/2019

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the need for a strengthened post-2020 Strategic EU Framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies and stepping up the fight against anti-Gypsyism

Livia Jároka, Roberta Metsola

on behalf of the EPP Group

**Soraya Post, Birgit Sippel, Josef Weidenholzer, Tanja Fajon,
Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, Péter Niedermüller, Dietmar Köster,
Ana Gomes**

on behalf of the S&D Group

Branislav Škripek

on behalf of the ECR Group

Cecilia Wikström

on behalf of the ALDE Group

Cornelia Ernst

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Romeo Franz

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

European Parliament resolution on the need for a strengthened post-2020 Strategic EU Framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies and stepping up the fight against anti-Gypsyism

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty on European Union, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
 - having regard to the Commission Communication on EU Framework for Roma integration strategies and subsequent implementation and evaluation reports,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
 - having regard to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the recognition of Roma as a group needing special protection against discrimination,
 - having regard to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2153 (2017) – Promoting the inclusion of Roma and Travellers,
 - having regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin,
 - having regard to the Council recommendation of 9 December 2013 on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States, to the Council conclusion of 8 December 2016 on Accelerating the process of Roma integration and of 13 October 2016 on the European Court of Auditors Special Report No 14/2016,
 - having regard to the Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law,
 - having regard to the European Parliament report on fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism (2017/2038(INI)),
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 April 2015 on International Roma Day – anti-Gypsyism in Europe and EU recognition of the memorial day of the Roma genocide during WW II,
 - having regard to the Fundamental Rights Report 2016 by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and FRA’s EU-MIDIS I and II surveys and various other surveys and reports on Roma,
 - having regard to the European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority Safepack' registered on 3rd April 2017;
 - having regard to the relevant reports and recommendations of the Roma civil society, NGOs and research institutions,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. Whereas ‘anti-Gypsyism’¹ is a specific form of racism, an ideology founded on racial superiority, a form of dehumanisation and institutional racism nurtured by historical discrimination, which is expressed, among others, by violence, hate speech, exploitation,

¹ Anti-Gypsyism is sometimes spelt differently, and in the various Member States it is sometimes referred to by a slightly different term, such as *Antiziganismus*.

stigmatisation and the most blatant kind of discrimination’;²

- B. whereas Roma³ are still being deprived of their basic human rights in Europe;
- C. Whereas the findings of the European Commission Report on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, (COM 2018) 785, underline that “the framework has been key for the development of EU and national instruments and structures aiming to promote Roma inclusion, but the ambition of putting an end to the exclusion of Roma has not been achieved”;
- D. whereas the evaluation carried out by the Commission shows that inclusion strategies must address the different goals simultaneously and in a comprehensive approach with a stronger focus on the fight against anti-Gypsyism; whereas a specific non-discrimination goal along with goals on inclusion of Roma should be added alongside the four Roma inclusion goals (education, housing, employment and health);
- E. whereas the progress achieved in the inclusion of Roma is overall limited; whereas improvements were observed in early school-leaving and early childhood education, however, there was deterioration concerning school segregation; whereas there was an improvement concerning the self-perceived health status of Roma but they continue to have limited medical coverage; whereas in most Member States no improvement was observed in access to employment, and the share of young Roma not in employment, education or training even increased; whereas there are serious concerns relating to housing and only little progress regarding poverty; whereas anti-Gypsyism and its manifestations, such as hate crime and hate speech - online and offline - continue to raise high concerns; whereas EU action was considered to provide an important added value to national Roma policies and their implementation through political, governance and financial areas;
- F. whereas the evaluation reports the shortcomings in the initial design of the framework and its limited effectiveness during the implementation;
- G. whereas the evaluation sheds light upon the fact that there is a need to ensure Roma empowerment and participation through dedicated measures; that empowerment and capacity building of Roma and NGOs are key;
- H. whereas the evaluation shows that the EU framework did not pay sufficient attention to targeting specific groups among Roma, that multiple and intersectional discrimination have to be addressed and that there is a need for a strong gender dimension and a child-centered approach in the strategies;
- I. whereas the current EU framework lacks clear objectives and measurable targets, there are insufficient qualitative and quantitative monitoring procedures, while country specific recommendations are not binding; whereas there is insufficient effort to address the limited participation of Roma individuals and communities in the framework’s design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures, programmes and projects regarding Roma;
- J. whereas most mainstream programmes are not inclusive of Roma and targeted actions covered by the Structural Funds failed to make sustainable positive changes in the lives of the most disadvantaged Roma;

² ECRI’s General Policy Recommendation No. 13 on Combating Anti-Gypsyism and Discrimination against Roma.

³ The word ‘Roma’ is used as an umbrella term which includes different related groups throughout Europe, whether sedentary or not, such as Roma, Travellers, Sinti, Manouches, Kalés, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkalis, Égyptiens, Yéniches, Doms and Loms, that may be diverse in culture and lifestyles.

K. whereas Member States have a clear responsibility to take corrective measures against practices that discriminate against Roma;

L. whereas the issue of building trust between the Roma and the non-Roma is vital for achieving advancement in the life and life chances of Roma; whereas trust is essential for the society as a whole;

1. Reiterates its position, demands and recommendations, as put forward and adopted in its resolution of 25 October 2017 on fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism; regrets that limited action has been taken on the recommendations put forward by the European Parliament in its resolution (2017/2038 (INI));

2. Calls on the Commission:

- i. to act upon the request of the Parliament, the Council and numerous NGOs and experts, and propose a Strategic EU Framework on National Roma Inclusion Strategies for the post-2020 period with a wider set of priority areas, clear and binding targets, timelines and indicators for monitoring addressing the specific challenges and reflecting the diversity of the Roma communities, and allocating substantial public funds;
- ii. to sufficiently involve Roma representatives, NGOs and the EQUINET in the design of the Strategic EU Framework, including through a visible and accessible consultation procedure, and enable their meaningful participation in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of it, strengthening thus their ownership;
- iii. to place the fight against anti-Gypsyism in the focus of the Strategic EU Framework including by adding a specific anti-discrimination goal, along with other goals, such as on inclusion of Roma in the environmentally sustainable and digital society, and their equitable representation in all spheres of life, and encourage Member States to develop targeted strategies and concrete actions to fight anti-Gypsyism, in addition to one of its manifestations, social and economic exclusion;
- iv. to ensure that multiple and intersectional discrimination, and a gender mainstreaming and child-sensitive approach will be properly addressed in the Strategic EU Framework;
- v. to ensure within the Commission the allocation of adequate human and financial resources in order to have the necessary capacities to monitor, support and provide guidance concerning the implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategies, including guidance to the National Roma Contact Points (NRCPs);
- vi. to strengthen the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in terms of its mandate, institutional capacity, human resources and budget in order to enable it to help the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategies;
- vii. to adopt a workforce diversity and inclusion strategy for Roma participation in the workforce of the EU institutions;
- viii. to pay attention to specific groups within the Roma population in the Strategic EU Framework, such as EU Roma exercising their right to freedom of movement, non-EU nationals and Roma in accession countries;
- ix. to include a Truth, Recognition and Reconciliation process in the Strategic EU Framework for the sake of trust-building and highlight concrete cultural and structural measures and initiatives, supported by EU funds;
- x. to continue to check the inclusiveness of the mainstream public policies of the Member

States under the European Semester of Europe 2020, and to maintain a strong link between inclusive structural reforms, the delivery of Roma inclusion goals and the use of EU funding in the Member States;

3. Calls towards Member States:

- i. to prepare their Strategic National Roma Inclusion Strategies for the post-2020 period with a wide set of priority areas, clear and binding targets, timelines and indicators for monitoring addressing the specific challenges and reflecting the diversity of their Roma communities, and allocate substantial public funds;
- ii. to follow a bottom-up approach and involve Roma representatives, communities, NGOs and equality bodies in the design of their Strategic National Roma Inclusion Strategies (Strategies), and enable their meaningful participation in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of it;
- iii. to place the fight against anti-Gypsyism in the focus of their Strategies, in addition to one of its manifestations, social and economic exclusion; to develop targeted strategies and concrete actions to fight anti-Gypsyism, such as investigating current and past racist attacks against Roma; and to encourage equitable representation of Roma in all spheres of life, including in media, public institutions and political bodies.
- iv. to ensure that multiple and intersectional discrimination, and a gender mainstreaming and child-sensitive approach will be properly addressed in their Strategies;
- v. to strengthen the NRCs in terms of their mandate, institutional capacity, human resources and budget and to ensure appropriate positioning of NRCs within the structure of their public administration in order to enable them to carry out their work through an effective cross-sectoral coordination;
- vi. to pay attention to specific groups within the Roma population in their Strategies, such as EU Roma exercising their right to freedom of movement and non-EU nationals, including Roma from accession countries;
- vii. to include a Truth, Recognition and Reconciliation process in their Strategies for the sake of trust-building and highlight concrete cultural and structural measures and initiatives supported by public funds;
- viii. to ensure and safeguard the effective inclusiveness of their mainstream public policies, to utilize the available EU Structural Funds to improve the living conditions and life chances of Roma in a transparent and accountable manner; to investigate the current and past misuse of relevant funds and take legal actions against the perpetrators; to take the necessary steps to secure the absorption of all the funds targeting Roma communities including by the end of the current MFF.

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, to the parliaments and governments of the Member States and candidate countries, to FRA, to OSCE as well as to the European Committee of the Regions for distribution to subnational parliaments and councils, and to the Council of Europe and United Nations.