

EUROPEAN ROMA AND TRAVELLERS FORUM

PRESS RELEASE



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

September 29 –October 10

Warsaw, Poland

Working session 6

Tolerance and non - discrimination I

Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti

Follow up to the 10-11 July 2008 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Sustainable Policies of Roma and Sinti Integration

ERTF STATEMENT

OSCE failed on the final test of providing of security and safety, that is to say failed in achieving of its main purpose of existence. ERTF must turn its attention to OSCE as an organization, but also to every member state of OSCE, that OSCE does not fulfill its obligations. All of what was agreed and later verified through numerous international documents (resolutions, agreements, recommendations, etc.) about human rights and freedoms in general, and especially the rights and freedoms of Roma, have not been conducted in reality. The drawn up documents are good, with excellent content, but they are just plain words on paper. All of what was declared is satisfactory for the rights and freedoms of Roma, but one dimension, the most important one, is missing - the very application of those documents.

The reality is that the condition of Roma is very difficult and in some countries intolerable where they are exposed to discrimination, racism and anti-gypsism. This is the situation today in Italy, Slovakia, Romania, the Balkan countries, especially Kosovo, but also several EU member states. This is why ERTF as an organization for peace and tolerance in Europe, demands from OSCE and from all others present at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, to implement its documents more responsibly especially the Action plan for Roma and Sinti.

However ERTF will not leave them all alone in this, but will offer all its possible help and support. ERTF will not position itself as a competitor or a negotiator of OSCE's work on the field of human rights and freedoms, especially the rights and freedoms of Roma. ERTF will be open always and everywhere to provide its support and necessary assistance in order to improve the position of Roma in Europe and wider in the world.

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The European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF), which has a partnership agreement with the Council of Europe and a special status with this institution, is Europe's largest and most inclusive Roma and Traveller organisation . It brings together Europe's main international Roma-NGOs and more than 1,500 national Roma and Traveller organisations from most of the Council of Europe member states.

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