

WORKSHOP:

Exploring standards and measures addressing Roma institutional visibility

Tuesday 16th June 2009

Conference Hall of the Greek Ombudsman
Hadjiyanni Mexi 5, 115 28 Athens - GR

Concept:

The Eunomia project of the Greek Ombudsman, operating under the auspices of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, organises this capacity building seminar in view of defining the main human rights priorities on Roma issues in Europe and identifying specific institutional solutions in this regard, resulting from:

- practices and/or strategies of National Specialized Bodies on Equality;*
- administrative practices;*
- specific initiatives of the Council of Europe and the case-law of the ECHR, the OSCE (High Commissioner for National Minorities, ODIHR) and the E.U. (E.C., FRA and E.P.)*

The concept of the workshop is to promote an interactive contact between specialized national equality bodies belonging to the EQUINET (European Network of equality bodies) and working on Roma issues - Ombudsman or not - with international organizations dealing with Roma issues in view of formulating specific recommendations for relevant institutional solutions.

AGENDA

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Conference Hall of the Greek Ombudsman.

9:30

Opening remarks

Yorgos KAMINIS – The Greek Ombudsman

9:45 – 17:00

First Session: Achievements and recommendations of international bodies

Chair: **Yorgos KAMINIS**

A. The Council of Europe

i. *The relevant case-law of the European Court for Human Rights*

Marc WILLERS, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers, London

ii. *The Council of Europe's activities*

Michael GUET, Head of the Roma and Travellers Division Secretary of the MG-S-Rom (Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers)

iii. *The work of the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights*

Nikolaos SITAROPOULOS- Senior Legal Adviser to the Commissioner for Human Rights

Discussion

Coffee break 11.30-12.00

Chair: **TBD**

B. The OSCE's (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) intervention

i. *The ODHIR's (Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) perspective,*

Andrzej MIRGA - Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues

ii. *The High Commissioner for National Minorities perspective,*

Georgia PAPAPAGIANNI, Senior Adviser at the Office of the High Commissioner

Discussion

13:15 Buffet Lunch for participants

15:15 – 17:00 (continuation of the First Session)

C. The European Union and Roma

i. The European Commission – **Joachim OTT**

ii. *The Fundamental Rights Agency* – **Eva SOBOTKA (TBC)**

ii.. *The European Parliament* - **Victoria MOHACSI**

Discussion

Coffee break 17:00 – 17:30

17:30 – 19:30

SECOND SESSION:

Round table “Addressing recommendations and standard setting for Roma institutional visibility”

Chair: **Andreas TAKIS**, The Greek Deputy Ombudsman for Human Rights

Rapporteur: **Prof. Ralph SANDLAND**, School of Law, University of Nottingham

Main topics of the discussion between EQUINET participants and representatives of international organizations:

- *The civil status of Roma*
- *Roma housing*

19:15 – 19:30

Concluding remarks