Basic information

2010/2276(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
EU strategy on Roma inclusion **Subject** 4.10.05 Social inclusion, poverty, minimum income 4.10.08 Equal treatment of persons, non-discrimination 4.10.12 Housing policy 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning 4.45.06 Heritage and culture protection, movement of works of art 7.30.08 Action to combat racism and xenophobia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	JÁRÓKA Lívia (PPE)	11/01/2010
	Shadow rapporteur GÖNCZ Kinga (S&D) WEBER Renate (ALDE) ROMEVA I RUEDA Raül (Verts/ALE) KIRKHOPE Timothy (ECR) ERNST Cornelia (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs (Associated committee)	GÖNCZ Kinga (S&D)	22/09/2010
REGI Regional Development	KOVATCHEV Andrey (PPE)	28/09/2010
CULT Culture and Education	TAKKULA Hannu (ALDE)	26/04/2010
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3064	2011-01-31

European Commission	

Commission DG	Commissioner
Migration and Home Affairs	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/04/2010	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2010)0133	Summary
25/11/2010	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/11/2010	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
31/01/2011	Debate in Council		Summary
14/02/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
21/02/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0043/2011	
08/03/2011	Debate in Parliament		
09/03/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0092/2011	Summary
09/03/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/03/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/2276(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/7/04584

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE454.401	24/11/2010	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE456.648	17/01/2011	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE452.812	25/01/2011	

Committee opinion	CULT	PE454.382	26/01/2011	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE452.865	31/01/2011	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0043/2011	21/02/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0092/2011	09/03/2011	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2010)0133	07/04/2010	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2010)0133	15/10/2010	

EU strategy on Roma inclusion

2010/2276(INI) - 09/03/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 576 votes to 32, with 60 abstentions, a resolution on the EU strategy on Roma inclusion.

The resolution recalls that a large proportion of Europe's 10-12 million Roma – most of whom are EU citizens – have suffered systematic discrimination and therefore are struggling against an intolerable degree of social, cultural and economic exclusion as well as human rights violations, and experience severe stigmatisation and discrimination in public and private life. It states that **the inclusion of the Roma population is both the responsibility of all the Member States and the EU institutions.**

EU Strategy: Parliament calls for an EU Strategy on Roma Inclusion ('the Strategy') as an **EU-wide, indicative, inclusive and multilevel action plan,** which will be prepared and implemented at all political and administrative level and can evolve as needed. The Strategy must build on the fundamental values of equality, access to rights, non-discrimination and gender equality and be based on the tasks, objectives, principles and instruments defined by the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Member States are called upon to cooperate with the EU and representatives of the Roma population in setting up integrated policies, making use of all the EU financial resources available under the EU funds, and in particular under the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD, to promote Roma inclusion.

Parliament calls on the Member States to appoint a high-level government official or an administrative body to act as **national contact points** for the transparent and efficient implementation of the Strategy. **Priority areas**: Parliament calls on the Commission to:

- adopt **priority areas for the Strategy**, above all fundamental rights, education, culture, employment, housing, healthcare, and participation of Roma in civil society;
- present in the Strategy **a roadmap for introducing binding minimum standards** at EU level for the priority areas of education, employment, housing and healthcare;
- define the **objectives of the Strategy** linked to the priority areas, inter alia by strengthening effective anti-discrimination legislation and ensuring access to quality education and access to the labour market.

The Commission and Member States are asked to address the particular needs of Roma women and girls by applying a gender perspective in all policies for Roma inclusion, and to provide protection for especially vulnerable subgroups.

Concentrate efforts on micro-regions: Members highlight the fact that the social exclusion of the Roma has a very strong **territorial dimension** of poverty and marginalisation which is concentrated in **underdeveloped micro-regions** that severely lack the financial resources required to make their own contribution to the Community funding for which they are eligible. These micro-regions generally lack the administrative capacity and human resources to make good use of the funding. The resolution emphasises the need for **specific efforts to be focussed on these micro-regions that are often peripheral intra-regional areas** and for the substantial simplification of bureaucratic red tape so that the maximum possible allocation of resources can be achieved under the umbrella of the Cohesion Policy.

Parliament calls on Member States to develop cross-sectoral poverty reduction strategies that take into consideration the often sensitive issue of the coexistence of the Roma community and the majority community. It highlights the importance of incentive measures that provide visible benefits to

encourage the poor to enter the labour market rather than live off social benefits and perhaps work on the black market. Programmes promoting mutual understanding and tolerance towards each other are of utmost importance.

Members stress the need for the **objectives of the Strategy to be subjected to checking and measurement** with regard to the degree of attainment so as to introduce award criteria in favour of compliant Member States and penalties for non-compliance.

Recommendations to the Commission: Parliament invites the Commission to:

- take the leading role in strategic coordination regarding progress in the priority areas and the fulfilment of the objectives relating to the Strategy, in partnership with the Member States and in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity:

- establish the **Roma task force as a permanent body** to take responsibility for supervision, coordination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and follow up, there by meeting the need for an independent, multi sector body serving as an'external facilitator' which can assess and balance the various national and sectoral interests in a manner acceptable to all;
- report on the implementation of the Strategy and the national action plans, with an evaluation of results including benchmarks and indicators, and keep Council and Parliament informed on an annual basis, noting that policy effectiveness and ex post evaluation should become a criterion for providing prolonged support,
- incorporate an **enlargement dimension** into the Strategy by developing pilot projects in candidate countries and potential candidates which guarantee the development of national action plans in line with the EU Strategy;
- adopt the **augmented and detailed components of the Laeken indicators** in measuring social and territorial exclusion as well as to evaluate progress;
- draw up a European crisis map which identifies and measures those micro-regions within the EU where the inhabitants are hardest hit by poverty, social exclusion and discrimination, on the basis of attributes such as accessibility of workplaces, high rate of unemployment, lack of proper infrastructure and low income;
- bring specific support, including financial support, to micro-regions and directly develop pilot projects that include the participation of mediators in line with the Council of Europe programme and a specific follow-up of the evolution of the implementation of the Strategy;
- allocate dedicated funding in the Cohesion Policy within the next Multiannual Financial Framework explicitly to support the Strategy by creating a performance reserve for the EU Strategy on Roma. This would have the effect of allocating funds on a competitive basis, defined by the criterion how the proposed project or intervention supports and implements the Objectives of the Strategy and could provide vital resources and decisive incentives for the implementation of the Strategy.

Members believe that exchanges of experience and good practices between Member States having achieved good results in the area of Roma inclusion and those still faced with this issue would be useful.

EU strategy on Roma inclusion

2010/2276(INI) - 31/01/2011

The Council was briefed by the Hungarian Presidency on its plans for work at EU level on integration of the Roma population.

The Presidency will submit a report to the General Affairs Council in May, to be forwarded to the European Council meeting on 24 June.

The Commission is expected to propose in April an EU framework on national Roma integration strategies. Subsequently, the presidency plans to hold debates in four relevant Council configurations.

EU strategy on Roma inclusion

2010/2276(INI) - 07/04/2010 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to set out the plans for an ambitious medium term programme aiming to strengthen the social integration of the Roma.

BACKGROUND: a significant part of the 10-12 million Roma in Europe live in extreme marginalisation in both rural and urban areas and in very poor socio-economic conditions. The discrimination, social exclusion and segregation which Roma face are mutually reinforcing. They face limited access to high quality education, difficulties in integration into the labour market, correspondingly low income levels, and poor health which in turn results in higher mortality rates and lower life expectancy compared with non-Roma.

The EU and its Member States have a **special responsibility towards the Roma**, who live in all Member States, candidate countries and potential candidates. The Charter of Fundamental Rights sets out the values on which the EU is based. These values need to be translated into practice in order to improve the situation of the Roma people, who form the largest ethnic minority in the EU.

Since December 2007, in a series of Council conclusions, the EU has endorsed the Commission's assessment that there is a powerful EU framework of legislative, financial and policy coordination tools already available to support Roma inclusion, but that more can be done to make them work more effectively. The Council affirmed that it is a joint responsibility of the Member States and the European Union to address the challenge of Roma inclusion, within the scope of their respective and complementary competences. The complexity and interdependence of the problems calls for sustainable responses which tackle all aspects of Roma deprivation through an integrated approach.

The European Union needs to build on the strong mobilisation in the EU institutions, Member States and international organisations and within civil society in support of the better social and economic integration of Roma. Measures to overcome Roma exclusion need to be **set within the wider framework of**

European equality, inclusion, and growth policies and to **optimise the use of the legal and financial instruments** available also to mainstream society.

CONTENT: the aim of this Communication, ahead of the 2nd Roma Summit, is to indicate how the EU will develop its contribution to the full social and economic integration of the Roma, on the basis of the progress achieved.

Progress made: since 2008, progress has been made in Member states and at EU level. In 2009, the focus shifted from an analysis of the problems to an exploration of how existing instruments could be made more effective and how the situation of the Roma could be addressed more explicitly across a broad range of policies, including employment, social inclusion, health, education, housing, youth and culture. The enforcement and further development of EU legislation in the areas of non-discrimination, freedom of movement, data protection and anti-racism has continued. The Commission also monitored the transposition of the relevant acquis in candidate countries and potential candidates.

The European Platform for Roma inclusion — composed of key players in Roma inclusion from EU institutions, international organisations, Member States governments and civil society — was launched in April 2009 to exchange good practice and experience and to stimulate cooperation among its participants. Its objective is to increase the coherence and effectiveness of the parallel policy processes at national, European and international level with a view to creating synergies. The Common Basic Principles for Roma inclusion, drawn up under the Platform process and distilled from the experiences of successful Roma inclusion initiatives, provides a practical framework for public policy makers at all levels on how to design and implement successful initiatives. These principles were used to justify the Commission proposal in 2009 to modify the European Regional Development Fund Regulation.

Most Member States report a stronger focus on internal coordination and on involving the Roma communities. Some Member States have begun to use the opportunities of complex programming and combined cohesion policy instruments.

The European Commission is also implementing a pilot project on Roma inclusion (EUR 5 million 2010-2012), initiated by the European Parliament, addressing early childhood education, self-employment through micro-credit, and public awareness particularly in countries with high Roma populations.

The forthcoming report of a study for the Commission in 2009 and 2010 on activities to improve the impact of policies, programmes and projects aimed at the social inclusion and non-discrimination of Roma people in the EU will identify success factors and good practice.

Challenges ahead: the analysis of the EU instruments and policies and the progress report 2008-2010 confirm that these instruments and policies are generally apt to support Roma inclusion, even on a large scale. The issue is how to ensure their potential is realised. The challenges ahead include:

- **improve cooperation** between European, national and international players and representatives of the Roma communities, building on the commitment to Roma inclusion that has materialised in the last 5-10 years;
- translate this commitment and cooperation into **positive changes at the local level**. This needs to be complemented by improved ownership and a strengthened capacity on the part of local administrations, civil society and the Roma themselves to initiate and implement projects, programmes and policies;
- **improve communication of the benefits of Roma inclusion** for local and national economic and social development. The social and economic integration of Roma is a 2-way process which requires a change of mindsets of the majority as well as of members of the Roma communities and their leaders;
- promote the **integrated use of EU Funds** in order to tackle the multidimensional challenges of Roma exclusion;
- develop explicit desegregation policies, notably in education and in housing and supported by the Structural Funds;
- place a special focus on the most disadvantaged micro-regions;
- **mainstream Roma inclusion issues into the broad policy areas** of education, employment, public health, infrastructure and urban planning, and economic and territorial development, rather than treating it as a separate policy. Good practices and successful models from projects need to be better disseminated and to become an integral part of policy.

Developing model approaches: there is a large and growing body of experience in the EU of which policy interventions work and which do not. However this knowledge is not yet easily accessible or digestible for public policy makers. Moreover it is not available in a form which is readily adapted to different situations. Roma communities in the EU27 as well as in candidate countries and potential candidates are not homogeneous groups. This heterogeneity means that there cannot be a single strategy: rather there is a need for differentiated approaches that take account of geographical, economic, social, cultural and legal contexts.

The Commission therefore intends to assist policy makers by developing a set of model approaches. Building on best practice, each model would address the needs of the major types of Roma community, including their particularly vulnerable subgroups, and suggest the most appropriate targeted public-policy interventions. The application of these model approaches would not be mandatory but Member States would be encouraged to take one or more of them into account when structuring their Roma inclusion policies.

The Commission will ensure that the preparation of measures to implement the EU 2020 Strategy as well as of programmes in the new financing period provide specific solutions to the problems of the different types of Roma communities.