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EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTER
EUROPEAN ROMA INFORMATION OFFICE
EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE
SPOLU INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP INTERNATIONAL
EUROPEAN ROMA GRASSROOTS ORGANISATION
ROMA EDUCATION FUND
FONDACION SECRETARIADO GITANO



EU ROMA POLICY COALITION



Press release

European Union to uphold Roma Rights

Brussels, 7 September 2010. The European Roma Policy Coalition is reiterating its call for the urgent adoption of a European Framework Strategy on Roma inclusion as a step towards eliminating discrimination against the Roma community. The Coalition has sent a letter [\[hyperlink\]](#) to José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, and Members of the European Parliament, expressing its concerns.

The call comes as the European Parliament today held an emergency debate on the situation of Europe's Roma people. The Coalition has welcomed a statement by Viviane Reding, the European Justice Commissioner that the European Commission will closely examine whether the evictions of Roma citizens from France are in fact legal. "If the Commission finds these measures breach EU law, we expect it to take swift legal action", said a Coalition spokesman.

The Coalition also endorsed Ms Reding's commitment and initiatives to improve the effectiveness of European policies to promote the inclusion of Roma. "We hope today's announcement by the Commission will prove to be a step towards a comprehensive strategy for Roma inclusion", said the Coalition spokesman. "It's essential we now ensure that the proposed measures produce lasting improvements to the lives of Roma people throughout Europe."

Looking ahead to the European Parliament's vote on its resolution on 9 September, the Coalition expressed the hope that Parliament will issue a clear statement on the responsibility of the EU and national governments to promote equal opportunities for Roma people and safeguard all citizens against discriminatory treatment.

The Coalition has been deeply concerned at various discriminatory measures deployed against Roma people by some EU countries. The most recent high-profile cases have been seen in France, where the government has forcibly evicted Roma people and Travellers from unauthorised settlements and expelled some of them to their countries of origin. There have been other instances of similar action against these communities, in Germany and Italy last year, and earlier this year in Denmark.
Note to editors:

The European Roma Policy Coalition is an informal gathering of non-governmental organisations operating at EU level on issues of human rights, anti-discrimination, anti-racism, social inclusion, and Roma and Travellers' rights. Its members are Amnesty International, the European Roma Rights Centre, the European Roma Information Office, the Open Society Institute, the Spolu International Foundation, Minority Rights Group International, the European Roma Grassroots Organisation, the Roma Education Fund, and Fundación Secretariado Gitano.