



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: The Presidency
to: The Working Party on Social Questions

Subject: **Roadmap - The Hungarian Presidency's programme on the social and economic integration of Roma**

Further to the meeting of the Working Party on Social Questions on 3 February 2011, delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency concerning the Hungarian Presidency's programme on the social and economic integration of Roma.

Roadmap

The Hungarian Presidency's programme on the social and economic integration of Roma

SQWP, 3 February 2011

1. *The goal of the Presidency*

- **to renew and to enhance the role of the European Union as well as the cooperation between the EU and its Member States** in the field of social and economic integration of Roma.

2. *Tool*

- **adoption of Council Conclusions** partly based on the Commission's proposal on the **Communication on the European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies** (hereinafter: Communication).

3. *Other EU Institutions' activities in the field of Roma inclusion during the Hungarian Presidency*

- **1-2 December 2010 – the Committee of the Regions adopted an opinion** on 'The Social and Economic Integration of the Roma in Europe'.
- **February 2011 – the European Parliament is to adopt a report on EU Strategy on Roma Inclusion** (based on the proposal of Ms Livia Járóka MEP).
- **5 April 2011 – the European Commission intends to adopt its Communication.**
- **May 2011 – the European Economic and Social Committee intends to adopt a report on Roma inclusion.**

4. *Roadmap of the work in the Council*

The lead Council will be the **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)**, and only the Social Questions Working Party (SQWP) will discuss the Council Conclusions. Therefore the Hungarian Presidency urges all delegations to coordinate with their colleagues responsible for related sectors.

11-12 April: Justice and Home Affairs Council

- The Commission will present its Communication on the EU Framework on National Roma Integration Strategies; this will be followed by an exchange of views on the first reaction of the Member States.

March-May the SQWP discusses the council conclusions

- in March the Hungarian Presidency intends to start the discussion on the draft Conclusions, focusing on elements that are independent of the forthcoming Commission Communication. Further meetings will take place in April and May.

11 May COREPER I

- COREPER to approve the Council Conclusions and forward them to the EPSCO for adoption.

19 May: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Council to hold an exchange of views, adopt the above-mentioned Council Conclusions and take note of the opinion of the Social Protection Committee.

19-20 May: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

- The Commission will present its Communication on the EU Framework on National Roma Integration Strategies, followed by an exchange of views.

23 May: General Affairs Council

- The Hungarian Presidency will present a Presidency Report based on the discussions that have taken place in the relevant Council formations (JHA, EPSCO, EYC) and on the Council Conclusions adopted by the EPSCO, and will organise an orientation debate based on this Report.

p.m. 24 June: European Council

5. *Other events during the Hungarian Presidency*

- **18 February 2011 – ICG - Informal Contact Group meeting, Brussels**
 - joint event of the Hungarian Presidency and the Council of Europe with participation of international organisations and NGOs.
 - agenda: presentation of the Presidency's roadmap, ongoing activities of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, debate on the territorial aspects of the poverty.
- **1 March 2011 – Preparatory meeting of the European Roma Platform, Brussels**
 - Preparatory activity with participation of experts in the field of territorial targeting (possible crisis map).

- **7-8 April 2011 – 5th meeting of the Integrated European Platform for Roma Inclusion, Budapest**
 - **7 April cultural event, Budapest**
 - **8 April meeting of the Platform, expert level meeting in Budapest**
 - **Official introduction of the Communication.**
 - **The topic of the discussion paper: - ‘Integrated actions in marginalised rural communities –the possibility of desegregation and the need to ensure equal access to resources and services’ (one of the themes suggested in the Platform Roadmap drawn up under the Spanish Presidency).**

6. *The Hungarian Presidency intends to raise the following issues during the negotiations on the draft Conclusions in the SQWP*

- Extensive research has confirmed that advancing the socio-economic integration of Roma is not only an urgent human rights goal, but also a process that will bring economic advantages by increasing the competitiveness of the EU and the sustainability of the Member States' social security systems, as well as reducing social problems. Hence Roma inclusion is not only the concern of a limited number of Member States, but a joint responsibility of the EU and all its Member States.
 - There is a need for measures, and programmes at all level; commitments at EU as well as at national level should be designated and agreed programmes should be implemented.
 - In the national strategies, a comprehensive and coordinated approach is needed. Specific priority areas should be identified. Moreover, the monitoring arrangements should be reinforced.

- Target groups should be defined on the basis of regional and social aspects, by applying the principle of explicit but not exclusive targeting, and thus a Europe-wide crisis map identifying the most disadvantaged micro-regions could be drawn up.

 - The alignment of national, regional and local policies and resources with interventions supported by the Structural Funds should be improved,

 - Better use of national and EU resources should be ensured.
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