



ERIO's Recommendations to the Luxembourgish EU Presidency

July - December 2015

From July until December 2015, Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The European Roma Information Office (ERIO), as an international advocacy organisation working to combat racist discrimination against Roma, would like to contribute to the Presidency's work on non-discrimination, Europe 2020 Strategy and migration. Outlined below are some key recommendations to ensure Roma integration.

1. Fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism

Whilst it is reassuring to know the Presidency will promote the principle of non-discrimination, more needs to be done to ensure that member states use their **anti-discrimination legal instruments and policies**. Member states should **horizontally adopt anti-discrimination legislation in the national system** in the different fields (i.e. education, health, housing and employment) and follow the **recommendations outlined in the 2014 European Commission's implementation [report on the Racial Equality Directive](#)**. The fulfilment of equal opportunities requires both the elimination of existing discrimination and the **adoption of positive measures** by member states aimed at Roma integration. Additionally, all necessary measures should be taken to **tackle the increase of hate speech and anti-Gypsyism**, which is one of the main causes of discrimination and marginalisation of Roma. Member states should be encouraged to **recognise the existence of anti-Gypsyism** as it was recently done by the European Commission (EC) and the European Parliament (EP)¹.

2. Increase effectiveness of the Europe 2020 Strategy

ERIO is pleased to see that the Presidency will focus to ensure an effectiveness of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#). To successfully achieve its social targets, member states should be encouraged to **use available EU instruments** and to **complement the Strategy with the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS)**, since the effective implementation of the former will ensure the implementation of the latter. Member states, enlargement and candidate countries, should be pressured to **efficiently implement the NRIS at national and local level** and to follow the **recommendations outlined in the European Commission's NRIS progress [report](#)** in June 2015. Additionally, member states should be encouraged to **use effectively EU funds** to ensure an implementation of the NRIS that is result oriented and to meet the EU 2020 Strategy social targets. Finally, member states should ensure proper NRIS monitoring and reporting mechanisms that go beyond the role of National Roma Contact Points as this is not enough.

3. Freedom of movement and migration

ERIO welcomes the fact that the Presidency is addressing migration since this is a relevant topic for European Roma as their right to freedom of movement and residence has been repeatedly violated. Expulsions of Roma are a important issue that must be addressed in order to **prevent the continued violation of their rights**. This can be achieved if **member states respect and implement the [Free Movement Directive 2004/38/EC](#)** in order to guarantee that Roma and all EU citizens exercise their right to free movement on an equal basis and to prevent future deportations and expulsions of these communities by member states.

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The **European Roma Information Office (ERIO)** is an international advocacy organisation which promotes political and public discussion on Roma issues by providing information to the EU institutions, civil society and governments. Through its wide network, it aims to combat racist discrimination against Roma through awareness raising, lobbying and policy development. www.erionet.eu - www.facebook.com/erionet.eu - www.twitter.com/ERIO_EU

¹ In the NRIS 2015 progress [report](#), the EC recognises the existence of anti-Gypsyism and encourages member states to take action. On 15 April 2015 the EP adopted a [resolution](#) on anti-Gypsyism.