STATEMENT

ERIO celebrated the display of the Roma flag at the EP on International Roma Day

Brussels, 9 April 2019

On 8 April, International Roma Day, and for the first time in history, the European Parliament in Brussels accepted to display the Roma flag. Once again, we welcome that the representatives of the highest institution of the European Union joined our initiative to celebrate the day in this special way.

ERIO was glad to attend this festive event that gathered many Roma organisations from ERIO’s network, coming from Belgium and abroad.

Vice President of the European Parliament Lívia Jároká gave a speech in which she expressed her happiness to see the Roma flag raised in such an important place, she also took advantage of this gathering to reassert the need to keep working hard to improve Roma’s living conditions in Europe.
Followed a deeply symbolic and emotional moment as the Romani anthem was performed by a professional singer and musicians right in front of the flag, at the main entrance of the highest European Institution. As stated by ERIO’s Executive Director, Ivan Ivanov, “this event was a glorious way to demonstrate the beauty and richness of Roma culture and heritage on a very special day and in a very significant place. It is paramount, in times where anti-Gypsyism, hate speech and hate crimes against Roma are on the rise, to show our commitment to promote and safeguard Roma rights and identity in Europe”.

For more information, please contact: Tel: +32 273 33 462, E-mail: office@erionet.eu

Note to the editor:

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) is a European 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.