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*Romani people are European citizens. Equal and Diverse!*

## **Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Romani people by LAW** *Combating antigypsyism and police violence*

27th September 2021

10:30 - 12:30

Online recorded event

### Background

It was proven, at least in the last 10 years, that Romani equality and inclusion cannot be achieved only through recommendations and soft policies, as those are lacking the political will of the members states and obligation to implement mainstream and specific policies for the Romani communities when it comes to access to water, electricity, internet, education, jobs, health, etc., and to combat discrimination and antigypsyism.

Despite the efforts done by the European Commission, the evaluation of the last EU Roma Framework shows only very limited progress regarding the situation of Romani people. The result: 80% of Romani people are living in deep poverty and social exclusion. Building on the evaluation and lessons learned from the 2011-2020 EU Roma Framework, which led only to limited progress, the Commission understood and managed to put together a strengthened post 2020 policy. In addition to achieving equality between Romani people and the general population in the main four strategic pillars of the framework: education, health, housing and employment, the Commission makes the fight against antigypsyism, the specific form of racism against Romani people, a new priority. Another important novelty in comparison to the last EU Framework on Roma Inclusion marks the specific set of indicators that provides the basis to monitor future progress by member states on the inclusion of Romani people by 2030. Furthermore, the new strategy promotes the equal participation of self-organisations of the Romani communities at all stages of the policy process and a better reflection of the heterogeneity of the Romani communities across Europe. While the post 2020 framework is a strengthened strategic document and paves the road to achieving inclusion for our people, it is still a soft policy. It is an inconvenient truth: without an equality law for Romani people and without a rule-of-law mechanism, the framework strategy remains a toothless tiger. Only with legislative action will we enable Romani people to exercise their rights as equal citizens and ensure that our financial support gets to where it is urgently needed. Therefore, it is a high time to discuss what the EU Law for Romani people should be about.

The main aim of the event is to look forward at concrete measures and initiatives to ensure equality, inclusion and participation of Romani people, to combat antigypsyism and police violence at EU, national and local level because Romani people are European citizens and they must be treated as equals.



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## AGENDA

### 10:30 Welcoming remarks

**Helena Dalli**, European Commissioner for Equality

**Janez Cigler Kralj**, Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Romeo Franz**, Member of the European Parliament GREENS/EFA

**Peter Pollák**, Member of the European Parliament, EPP

### 10:50 How to achieve equality, inclusion and participation of Romani people by Law

**Michael O'Flaherty**, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**Dan Pavel Doghi**, Leader of the Roma team, DG Justice, European Commission

**Evin Incir**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D

**Anna Donath**, Member of the European Parliament, RE

**Cornelia Ernst**, Member of the European Parliament, GUE/NGL

**Siniša-Senad Musić**, Roma youth organization of Croatia

**Traian Caldarar**, Traditional Romani man, Romania.

### 11:30 How to fight against antigypsyism by Law to ensure better inclusion of Romani people

**Rasmus Andresen**, Member of the European Parliament, GREENS/EFA

**Gabriela Hrabanova**, European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network, ERGO

**Daniel Strauß**, Romno Kher

**Esther Reinhardt**, co-founder of Sinti-Roma-Pride and co-chair of the German Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma (BVSr) e.V.

**Arabela Iljaz**, European Roma Equality Network, EREN

**Sebihan Demirovsky** Roma Resource Centre, Northern Macedonia

### 12:00 No knee on the neck - Combating police violence against Romani people

**Marian Mandache**, Lawyer and human rights activist

**Đorđe Jovanović**, President of the European Roma Rights Centre

**Cases of Romani people who suffered from police violence**

### 12:25 Concluding remarks