



**ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA**

**COMISSÃO DE ASSUNTOS CONSTITUCIONAIS, DIREITOS,  
LIBERDADES E GARANTIAS**

**Relatório**

**Participação na celebração do Dia Internacional da Mulher organizada pelo Parlamento Europeu com a participação da rede parlamentar europeia das Comissões para a Igualdade de Oportunidades (NCEO)**

16 de Março de 2010

1. A reunião promovida pelo Parlamento Europeu a propósito da celebração do dia internacional da mulher, aberta pelo Presidente do Parlamento Europeu, teve como tema nuclear a violência contra as mulheres – *Violence against women: we can stop it!* – e seguiu a ordem de trabalhos que junto se anexa.
2. Os trabalhos foram organizados em torno de intervenções produzidas pela Ministra da Igualdade de Espanha, pela Vice-presidente da Comissão Europeia com o pelouro da Justiça, Direitos Fundamentais e Cidadania, pela Directora Executiva da UNIFEM, pelo Director da Agência Europeia da União Europeia e por um jornalista búlgaro com um amplo trabalho de investigação na matéria, a partir das quais se gerou um amplo debate entre as/os deputados europeus e nacionais.
3. A partir do debate foi possível constatar o esforço generalizado, por parte dos Estados-Membros de legislarem e construírem os instrumentos políticos e organizacionais para combater e eliminar a violência contra as mulheres, apesar de as situações descritas referirem naturalmente realidades sócio-culturais diversas e da impossibilidade de comparar os dados europeus. Mas foi também constatado que, apesar dos progressos feitos a nível legislativo e político, a situação de violência permanece.
4. Neste contexto, pude intervir no debate, segundo os seguintes pontos:
  - a. A violência contra as mulheres é uma persistente manifestação de barbárie que atenta contra os direitos humanos e de forma especial contra a dignidade da mulher;
  - b. Enunciado das medidas e acções desenvolvidas em Portugal neste âmbito;
  - c. Ponderação sobre a persistência do fenómeno apesar da elevação do nível educativo, da participação das mulheres no mercado de trabalho e decorrente capacitação financeira, da formação das forças de segurança pública, dos



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- progressos legislativos. A permanência de preconceitos e estereótipos na percepção do fenómeno, na aplicação da lei;
- d. O imperativo alargamento às comunidades envolventes, capacitando os cidadãos e co-responsabilizando-os.
5. Foi salientado ser entendido como favorável ao combate mais eficaz à violência contra as mulheres, a harmonização da legislação dos estados-membros assim como a criação de um número telefónico europeu de emergência (salientando-se a importância que quem atende saiba informar, esclarecer e apoiar) e feito um apelo à permanência de pressão a exercer sobre os Governos para que continuem a promover as necessárias medidas ao combate à violência contra as mulheres.
6. Foi ainda referido que, e com o objectivo de reforçar o combate à violência contra as mulheres, em 25 de Novembro terá lugar uma reunião de alto nível sobre a temática e que se prevê a aprovação de uma directiva em 2011.
7. Foi também possível durante este período ter uma reunião de trabalho com a Deputada europeia Cornelia Ernst, responsável pela audição pública – *II European Roma Summit – Commitment for European Strategy for Roma Inclusion* (cujo relatório se anexa). Referindo o trabalho desenvolvido pela Assembleia da República, foi possível constatar a sua relevância quer pelo diagnóstico quer pela identificação da indispensável intervenção integrada com vista à promoção da plena inclusão dos cidadãos ciganos.

Maria do Rosário Carneiro

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Lisboa, 17 de Março de 2010



8 MARCH

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WE CAN STOP IT

**Celebration of the International Women's Day 2010**  
*With the participation of the NCEO Network of National Parliaments*

**on the theme of violence against women**

Tuesday, 16 March 2010 from 9.00 to 12.30  
European Parliament, Hemicycle, rue Wiertz, Brussels

**Chair: Eva-Britt Svensson**

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

**09.00**    **Opening** by Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament

**Interventions by:**

Bibiana Aído Almagro, Minister for Equality, Spain, Presidency-in-office

Viviane Reding, Vice-President responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, European Commission

Mara Carfagna, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Italy

**10.00**    **Debate**

**10.30**    **Interventions by:**

Inés Alberdi, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Martin Karbovski, journalist from Bulgaria

Morten Kjærum, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency

**11.15**    **Debate**

**12.30**    **Closure of the meeting**

**12.45**    **Cocktail Reception** for Members of National Parliaments and of the European Parliament

## CONCLUSION REMARKS

**event:** public hearing in the European Parliament on the *II European Roma Summit*  
*Commitment for European Strategy for Roma Inclusion*

**date:** 03 March 2010, Brussels

In order to break the cycle of deprivation facing Roma there is a need for a comprehensive EU Roma strategy. Roma constitute the largest ethnic minority in Europe and the size of the Roma population is twice or three times greater than that of some member states.

In both member states and accession countries the situation of the Roma is one of long-standing discrimination compounded by extreme poverty. There is a need for a comprehensive strategy to streamline and coordinate current efforts towards Roma inclusion across EU institutions, national governments, municipalities and micro-regions, backed up by appropriate institutional mechanisms.

There is a need for a strategy for the compelling reason that millions of Euro has been spent to date on Roma related projects without a guiding comprehensive policy. What is evident from the negligible impact of spending to date is that mainstreaming does not work. If it did, we might have noticed an improvement rather than a worsening of the plight of the Roma.

The last couple of years have been marked by killings and other acts of violence against Roma inside the European Union, frequent recourse to inflammatory racist rhetoric by radical populists, and an increase in broad public hostility towards Roma. The transposition and implementation of the Racial Equality Directive by member states notwithstanding, virulent anti-Roma prejudice has become a mobilizing force in electoral politics. The spread of anti-Gypsyism requires an emphatic and coordinated zero-tolerance response as a core priority of an EU Roma strategy as well as complementary measures to raise awareness of and combat anti-Romani sentiment.

There is a need to emphasize that inclusion promotes social cohesion and is both a moral imperative and an economic necessity. In a region characterised by aging populations and falling birth rates, the Roma population is the youngest and fastest growing demographic segment of the citizenry. Our societies simply cannot afford another lost generation. The price of exclusion is simply too high. A recent study on the costs of non-inclusion sponsored by Open Society Foundation Bratislava confirms that

by 2030 Roma will constitute as much as 16% of Slovakia's population in school or of productive age. It is estimated that a politics of inclusion, and policies to promote inclusion of Roma would yield huge savings in social allowances, significantly increase the size of the employed labour force, and could produce a 7-11% increase in GDP. A Europe-wide drive to promote effective policies of Roma inclusion requires a coherent and strategic response from the European Union.

There is a compelling need for a comprehensive approach that embraces the priority areas identified by national governments participating in the Decade of Roma Inclusion: housing, health, education and employment, gender equity and anti-discrimination. The Decade provides a working template from which to build an EU strategy for Roma Inclusion.

The importance of the educational systems gearing up to meet these challenges cannot be overstated. There is a need, a pressing need to bring an end to school segregation. If talk of integration is futile as long as Romani children across Central and Eastern Europe are denied equal access to quality education. Integration will remain an elusive goal as long as Romani children continue to be classified as mentally handicapped and sent to special schools; as long as Romani children continue to be dispatched to so-called gypsy schools situated in Roma ghettos; or placed in separate gypsy classes or annexes within school buildings. Enlightened and integrated education prepares children for life in a multicultural society. It sensitizes children to the reality of difference, cultivates tolerance, openness, curiosity and mutual respect. By contrast, segregated education - in addition to denying Roma children equal opportunities and reproducing disadvantage - fosters ignorance and reproduces prejudices among majority children.

There is a need for policies to promote early childhood interventions in the provision of health, care, development and education for children under compulsory school-age. To ensure equality of treatment and strive for equality of outcomes there is a clear need for a series of compensatory interventions at the earliest possible stage in a child's life. Readiness for school must include health and emotional well-being, cognitive and language development and fully take account of family and social environments. A comprehensive Europe-wide policy response is needed to accelerate processes of reform to ensure equal access to quality education for Romani children.

There is a need to address one glaring deficit: the lack of ethnically disaggregated data. If there is no data there can be no progress. Without basic data it is well-nigh impossible to devise effective targeted policies; impossible to identify inequalities and pinpoint what reproduces and amplifies those inequalities. If reliable data about the size of the Roma population in each of the countries is lacking, how can credible, adequately budgeted policies for Roma inclusion be devised? Some states object that the collection

of ethnically disaggregated data is not permitted, that it cannot be done. The short answer is yes it can. There are adequate procedural safeguards in place to ensure that personal data is not put to improper use. The European Union could play a vital coordinating role in guiding and coordinating the efforts of national governments to collect the sort of data needed to move forward. And towards this end what is needed a comprehensive EU strategy for Roma inclusion.

There is a need for Roma participation in all policy interventions that impact on Roma communities, and a need to empower and capacitate civil society. For effective interventions depend on ensuring wide participation throughout the policy chain – from conception to implementation. The lack of organizational capacity among Roma, in particular at local level, justifies a targeted EU support for Roma NGOs and Community Based Organisations.

There is a need for an equal opportunities conditionality component to be incorporated into EU funding procedures to ensure that the intended or unintended consequences do not result in perpetuating or amplifying Roma exclusion. The Council Conclusions in December 2008 called on the Commission and the Member States in close cooperation ‘to take account of the situation of the Roma when designing and implementing policies to defend fundamental rights, combat poverty and discrimination and uphold gender equality, and ensure access to education, housing, health, employment, justice and culture .... And to make better use of the Structural Funds, the Pre-Accession Instrument and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument to promote the inclusion of the Roma ...’

There is a need for a response that is proportionate to the challenges to make Roma inclusion a reality, to combat poverty and discrimination, to overcome anti-Roma prejudice and bring an end to segregation. In short, if we are to avert a deepening crisis, there is a need to embrace a comprehensive EU Roma policy.