

Question for written answer E-006114/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Siôn Simon (S&D)

Subject: Roma integration

The Roma people are Europe's largest ethnic minority. Of the estimated 10-12 million in the whole of Europe, some six million live in the EU, most of them EU citizens. Many Roma in the EU are victims of prejudice and social exclusion, despite the fact that EU countries have banned discrimination.

Currently the Commission does not have a specific fund solely for Roma integration. Member States can dedicate as much money to this cause as they wish through their allocation of European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding. However, the scale of discrimination against Roma people is at such a level today that more action must be taken.

Given that the Roma people make up a significant part of the EU population, does the Commission not think that a fund dedicated solely to supporting the integration of Roma in each Member State would be useful? In this way Member States would take a stronger line of action.

Has each Member State developed a robust monitoring system for the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS)?

How often do the Member States report back to the Commission on the progress of their Roma integration strategy?