



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

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**2013/2066(INI)**

29.8.2013

# **DRAFT REPORT**

on Gender Aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion  
Strategies  
(2013/2066(INI))

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Rapporteur: Lívia Járóka

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PE516.873v01-00

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*United in diversity*

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on Gender Aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies (2013/2066(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular Articles 1, 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 25, 34, and 35,
- having regard to international human rights law, notably the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the 1992 UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- having regard to European conventions protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, notably the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR); the European Social Charter and the related recommendations of the European Committee of Social Rights; the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe; and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence,
- having regard to Articles 2, 3 and 6 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Commission Communication on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (COM(2011)0173) and the European Council Conclusions of 24 June 2011,
- having regard to the Commission Communication on National Roma Integration Strategies: a first step in the implementation of the EU Framework (COM(2012)0226),
- having regard to the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States (COM(2013)0460),
- having regard to the Commission Communication on steps forward in implementing national Roma integration strategies (COM(2013)0454),
- having regard to its resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of Roma women in the EU<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to its resolution of 9 March 2011 on the EU strategy on Roma inclusion<sup>2</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 298 E, 8.12.2006, p. 283.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 199 E, 7.7.2012, p. 112.

- having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality and the opinions of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (A7-0000/2013),
- A. whereas the Strategy for Equality between women and men 2010-2015 requires the Commission to ‘support the promotion of gender equality in the implementation of all aspects of the Europe 2020 Strategy’ and whereas the Council conclusions on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies demand ‘a gender perspective to be applied in all policies and actions for advancing Roma inclusion’;
  - B. whereas the risk of poverty for Roma women exceeds that of Roma men and whereas Roma families with four or more children are at greatest risk of poverty in the EU;
  - C. whereas commonly used indicators tend to neglect problems such as in-work poverty, energy poverty, the poverty of large families and single parents, child poverty, and the social exclusion of women;
  - D. whereas elderly Roma women are exposed to a higher risk of poverty due to the majority of them having worked in the informal economy without remuneration or social security affiliation;
  - E. Whereas the overwhelming majority of Roma adults classified as ‘inactive’ are women and – partly due to the traditional labour division between women and men – the number of active-aged Roma women in paid employment is only about half that of Roma men, with the figures being similar in terms of self-employment;
  - F. whereas it is significantly harder for mothers of large families or single mothers to work further away from their homes and families in disadvantaged rural areas;
  - G. whereas the literacy rate and educational performance of Roma women fall significantly short of both that of Roma men and non-Roma women, and whereas the majority of Roma girls are early school leavers and a significant proportion of them has never attended school;
  - H. whereas teenage and unplanned pregnancy disrupts the educational and working opportunities of girls;
  - I. whereas the economic crisis has had a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of Roma women, aggravating their long unacceptable situation, with more than a quarter of all Roma women being limited in their daily activities by health problems;
  - J. whereas due to their low socio-economic status and the discrimination they perceive in health care, Roma women resort to medical services much less than the majority of the population;
  - K. whereas Roma women and girls are disproportionately affected by several diseases – including HIV/AIDS – but prevention programmes for them are commonly under-prioritised and under-financed, and the accessibility of screenings remains low;
  - L. whereas extreme poverty increases the risk of trafficking in women, prostitution, violence

and other forms of exploitation that hamper the full participation of women in all areas of life and the achievement of gender equality;

1. Stresses that national Roma inclusion strategies must focus on reinforcing Roma women's socio-economic resilience, i.e. their ability to adapt to the rapidly changing economic environment, through effectuating savings and preventing the running-down of assets;
2. Calls on Member States to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the implementation of their national Roma inclusion strategies and to connect their implementation with existing gender equality strategies, in particular by establishing the elimination of the pay gap within Roma communities as an explicit objective;
3. Calls on the Commission and Member States to conduct gender impact assessments when designing the specific measures within their national Roma inclusion strategies;
4. Calls on the Commission to introduce more effective instruments for measuring the actual socio-economic situation of Roma women, such as incorporating the quantification of the 'economics of life' and recognition of the informal economy into its 'beyond GDP' project; calls on the Commission, furthermore, to develop and monitor gender-specific indicators for the national Roma inclusion strategies and social inclusion policies;
5. Calls on Member States' governments and local authorities to involve women's organisations, Roma NGOs and relevant stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the national Roma inclusion strategies and to create links between gender equality bodies or women's rights organisations and social inclusion strategies;
6. Calls on Member States to target explicitly Roma women in extreme socio-economic deprivation in their measures and to focus simultaneously on at-risk groups by preventing and tackling factors of impoverishment;
7. Calls on the Commission and Member States to introduce a child poverty reduction target into the EU Roma inclusion process, to mainstream children's rights in social inclusion measures, to monitor progress from the perspective of child poverty, as well as to identify and develop priority actions in the field;
8. Calls on Member States to include in their national Roma inclusion strategies tailored programmes for the active inclusion of Roma women in the labour market and to make life-long learning available in order to acquire marketable skills;
9. Calls on Member States to develop specific measures targeting large families (with four or more children), and single parent households by facilitating entry to the labour market, promoting flexible working hours, extending childcare facilities and considering tailored welfare arrangements;
10. Calls on Member States to reintroduce the Barcelona targets on childcare and to develop accessible, affordable and high-quality care services for the whole life cycle;
11. Calls on Member States to take all necessary measures to prevent the dismissal of employees during pregnancy or motherhood, and to consider recognising the raising of children as a period counting towards pension entitlements;

12. Urges Member States and local authorities to mobilise the European microfinance facility for employment and social inclusion to support the engagement of unemployed Roma women in self-employment through easily accessible financial help, technical assistance and back-up measures;
13. Calls on the Member States to develop specific programmes targeting teenage mothers and early school leaver girls, in particular to support the continuation of uninterrupted education, subsidising their assumption of employment, and providing work-based training;
14. Calls on the Commission and Member States to identify Roma women as an explicit target group of their health initiatives, especially with respect to diseases that are strongly linked to the female hormonal system and/or poverty, such as osteoporosis, musculoskeletal problems and central nervous system illnesses; urges, furthermore, to make breast and cervical cancer screening and prevention – including vaccines against human papillomaviruses – fully accessible and to aim at initiating healthcare for pregnant women already in their first trimester of pregnancy;
15. Calls on Member States to facilitate and promote the participation of Roma communities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disease prevention, treatment, care and support programming, as well as in reducing stigmatisation and discrimination in the medical system;
16. Calls on Member States to investigate, ban and prosecute direct and indirect discrimination against Roma women in exercising their fundamental rights and in accessing public services as well as to prevent any further discrimination;
17. Calls on Member States to address all forms of violence against women, with special regard to Roma women, and to support victims of domestic violence by ensuring proper resources for related public services and by providing assistance also through mainstream services, such as health, employment and education;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.