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**Council of Europe Dialogue
with Roma and Traveller¹ Civil Society**

**7th Meeting, Strasbourg, 11-12 April 2019
Room G05, Agora Building**

**PROTECTING FAMILY LIFE
by securing housing and preventing evictions**

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, 11 April 2019	
08.30 - 09.00	 Registration of participants
09.15 - 09.45	Welcome and Opening Addresses Chair: Gilles HEYVAERT , Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of the Directorate of Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe (<i>TBC</i>)▪ Satu Mattila-Budich, Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe, on behalf of the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers▪ Camille Gangloff, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg (<i>TBC</i>)
09.45 - 11.30	Setting the scene – Securing the rights to housing <i>This session will attempt to list the norms set by international and European jurisprudence on important matters related to housing such as legal protection, material living conditions, equal treatment, respect for diversity, etc.</i> Moderator: Hallvard Gorseth , Head of Department a.i. for the Roma and Traveller Team, Council of Europe

¹ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand, Roma, Sinti/Manush, Kale/Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; and, on the other hand, groups such as Balkan Egyptians and Ashkali, Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal), Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies, Boshia or Garachi. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Topics to be discussed:

- *What minimum standards do public authorities have to respect when effectively implementing fundamental social rights and, more specifically, the right to housing?*
- *How anti-Gypsyism and discrimination prevents equal access and/or the right to housing?*

Reference page:

<http://www.housingrightswatch.org/page/council-europe-housing-rights>

- **Introduction: “Understanding Social exclusion through the denial of access to decent living conditions”** by **Philip Martin** Research Assistant / Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU), University of Salford, UK
- **“Housing-related binding obligations on states”** by **Bianca Boji-Tahvanainen**, European Court of Human Rights²
- **“Using the European Social Charter to Defend Social Rights for Roma and Travellers”** by **Henrik Kristensen**, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights
- **“Connecting housing right to fundamental rights through European Charters and conventions”** by **Miranda Vuolasranta**, President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF)

Discussion

11.30 - 12.00
12.00 - 13.00

Tea/coffee break
Securing the minimum standards to housing provision and decent living conditions

Topics to be discussed:

- *What further measures need to be defined to support Roma and Travellers in accessing housing and public utilities?*
- *What legal instruments and benchmark indicators reverse the severe housing deprivation conditions endured by Roma and Traveller families?*
- *What is the role of housing in breaking the multidimensional poverty cycle of Roma families?*

This session will attempt to discuss adequate housing concepts and measures that are needed to prevent homelessness, prohibit forced evictions, address discrimination, ensure security of tenure to all, and guarantee access to adequate housing.

Moderator: **Thorsten Afflerbach**, Head of Division for the Roma and Traveller Team, Council of Europe

- **“Housing situation of Roma and Travellers across EU Member States”** by **Ann-Charlotte Nygard**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (TBC)
- **“Closing the gap in accessing housing and public utilities – Post 2020”** by **Gesa Böckermann**, Policy Officer, Non-Discrimination Policies and Roma Coordination, DG Justice and Consumers, Non-discrimination policies and Roma Coordination, European Commission (TBC)
- **“Informal settlements and the right to housing”** by **Claude Cahn**, Human Rights Officer, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (TBC)

Discussion

13.00 - 14.30
14.30 - 17.30

Lunch break
Action based policies and initiatives to housing rights claims

This session will attempt to present good practices and measures regarding access to housing and public services. These measures can require intervention from the Government at various levels: legislative, administrative and policy.

² The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) includes specific rights that guarantee a right to housing, including Article 8, the right to family and private life and protection of the home; Article 6, the right to due process in the case of eviction; Article 3, the right to be protected against inhuman and degrading treatment; Article 2, the right to life; and Article 14, the right to protection against discrimination. The right to housing is also grounded in the right to property. An individual's substantial interest in a 'good' can cover in certain situations the protection of one's home irrespective of the tenure status (Article 1, protocol 1).

Topics to be discussed:

Moderator: **Chrisoula Arcoudis**, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe

- **“Draft Report: Discrimination against Roma and Travellers in the field of housing”** by **František Kopřiva**, (Czech Republic, ALDE), Rapporteur on housing appointed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (*TBC*)
- **“The CoE's contribution to Albanian Law 22/2018 On Social Housing : obstacles and strategies for overcoming them”** by **Theodoros Alexandridis**, Expert on International Human Rights Law
- **“Review of the departmental framework for reception and housing for Travelers: method and stakes”** by **Manuel Demougeot**, Director of the Private Office of the Inter-ministerial delegate for accommodation and access to housing (Dihal), France, (*TBC*)
- **Approaching social housing criteria allocation for disadvantaged communities in Romania : “ROMACT guidelines for local authorities”** by **Florin Botonogu**, ROMACT expert
- **“Mapping of city initiatives of Roma in Europe”** by **Bianca Faragau**, Senior Policy Adviser - Eurocities
- **l’Espace 16, results and perspectives, City of Strasbourg/Horizon Amitiés** (*TBC*)

Discussion

16.00 - 16.30
17:30

Tea/coffee break
End of the first working day

Friday, 12 April 2019	
09.30 - 09.40	Introduction to the working groups
09.40 - 11.30	<p>Working group 1: The role of Civil Society in strengthening rights claims of Roma and Travellers in housing</p> <p><i>The dynamics of migration, densification and segregation can be mutually reinforcing and powerful, creating intractable problems and yet also opening opportunities for governmental entities at all scales.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Robert Rustem, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Roma on the margins: Housing right denied” by Amnesty International (AI) <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p>Working group 2: Housing and Cities in a time of change: are we focusing on People?</p> <p><i>The overall objective of the working group is to explore and develop concepts for analysing institutional and organisational change and dynamics in affordable housing provision. Government policies, management reforms and rapidly changing social and economic contexts have placed new expectations on social and public landlords. In addition, policies encouraging partnering with the private sector and/or direct private market provision of social/public housing have blurred the lines between public and private housing activities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ana Oprisan, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Social Housing in the city of Ostrava” by Tomáš Macura, Mayor of the City of Ostrava (TBC) ▪ “Pata-Cluj Roma Inclusion by Enikő Vincze, researcher and activist, Cluj (TBC) <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
11.30 - 12.00	Tea/coffee break
12.00 - 13.00	<p>Taking stock of issues discussed during the 7th Dialogue Meeting: Preliminary Conclusions and Commitments to moving forward</p> <p><i>Participants will take stock of issues discussed during the meeting and identify key action priorities for further development in the area of Roma and Traveller access to housing and preventing evictions. The session has the aim of interpreting the outcomes of the 7th Dialogue meeting into concerted further efforts between the Council of Europe and Civil Society.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Tatjana Andjelić, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the outcomes from the working groups & proposals for follow up activities <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing Remarks: Thorsten Afflerbach, Head of Division for the Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe
13.00	End of the meeting