



POLITICAL MOVEMENT "EUROROMA"

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S O S APPEAL!

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We, from EUROROMA, in our capacity as:

- the only party, which represents the interests of the Roma from the countries members of the European Union, which has an own deputy not quotly, and thanks to its electoral contribution to Coalition for Bulgaria;
- the only Roma party in 2005, which independently jumped over at parliamentary elections the minimum entitled level of 1 % (in accordance with the Law for the political parties of the Republic of Bulgaria) ;
- the party, to which at all local elections since 2003 up to the present, the Bulgarian Roma have passed the greatest vote of confidence,

We consider that this urgent moment has come, in which to declare to you the following:

It is indisputable fact, that in the last 20 years and up to the present moment towards the Roma community in the countries members of the former socialist block and present members of the European Union the political approach towards the Roma community has been almost identical, and namely:

1. Buying of Roma votes during all types of elections.
2. Non-admission of the natural leaders of the Roma community to the management of the country at all levels and their discrediting before the rest part of the society through power instruments.
3. Appointing to advisory or to other posts in the state authority of representatives of the community, which only task and function is to be convenient to their employers, and not useful for the social incorporation of their community.
4. The establishment of not working strategies, programmes, conceptions and others not considered with the mentality and the specific characteristics of the Roma ethnicity, because of the non- recognition of this ethnicity.

5. The absorption of resources in suspicious way on behalf of hundreds of non-governmental organizations as per different inefficient projects and programmes, as in many of the cases the establishers of these Non-Governmental Organizations again do not have anything to do with the Roma community and do not know it.
6. The social isolation – continuous and putting in the conditions of impasse and situation of surviving whole Roma families and generations of Roma, through lack of education, unemployment many times higher than the average for the separate countries and token social aids.
7. Depreciating and humiliating health servicing, which has lead to higher mortality among the Roma community and lower average continuation of life among Roma. According to data from the last counting of the population in 2001 at the Roma community in Bulgaria the continuation of life is lower in comparison with the rest of the population. Barely around 5% from the Roma reach pension age. In 68 % from the Roma households there is a chronically sick person, 58 % do not have access to stomatological help, 55 % point, that the hampered access to doctors because of remoteness, is danger for their health. Half of the persons of Roma origin are not health social secured. There is apparent disturbing tendency for ethnicizing of types of diseases as measles and tuberculosis.
8. The expulsion, because of economical interests of thousands of Roma families on the street out of their dwellings, which in the most of the cases they have tried to legalize in the course of decades in vain, without being provided for them alternative homes.
9. The lack of access to quality education of generations of Roma children, as most of these who have succeeded to finish their secondary education can only to read and write. The separation of students of Roma origin in segregated schools or their sending in specialized schools for children with mental problems.
10. The uniting at seminars and state initiatives of the subjects and the problems of the people of Roma origin and the people with disabilities (mental or physical) is going to turn into practice. For example, two of the spheres, for which is responsible Vivian Reding – Deputy Chairwoman of the European Commission for people with disabilities and Roma. Why? Yes, both groups of people frequently become victim of discrimination and chance for equal opportunities, but the problems is extremely different and in any case it should not be reduced to a common denominator.
11. Depreciating, and not in rare cases and undisguised discriminatory treatment on behalf of representatives of the state institutions and the private sector towards the Roma community.
12. The appearance of extreme right political formations, which create purposefully hostile social adjustment towards the Roma. The more increasing and clear cases of discrimination and open aggression towards representatives of the Roma community on their behalf.
13. The lack of first-rate state authorities with operative functions and national importance, engaged only and completely with the Roma problems. Instead of

this the Roma problems is fourth-rate responsibility in the periphery of ministries, which carry out completely different basic functions.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

As a striking example for useless and expensive efforts for settlement of the Roma problems, we calmly may point the Decade of the Roma inclusion 2005-2015, in which the countries Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro do not mark significant progress as per the settlement of the Roma problems and up to the present moment. As an example in confirmation of our conclusion is the statement from the beginning of May 2010 of the Prime-Minister of Slovakia – one of the countries participants in the Decade, Robert Fico. He admits: „Slovakia does not know how to deal with the Roma problems alone - this already is a common European issue“ .

We assure you, that we as people, who every day are in the Roma neighbourhoods and quarters, we observe a tendency, which is more than disturbing – the high birth-rate and the reducing age boundary at the Roma escalate, simultaneously with the misery and the lack of any kind of conditions for bringing up of children. And since it is a proved fact, that some of the main factors for the high birth-rate and the reducing age boundary of the mothers of Roma origin are the illiteracy and the unemployment, according to our prognoses in about twenty years in Bulgaria there shall be over three million illiterate people, living in poverty and because of this indirigible Roma. Unfortunately, the tendency shall be similar in the whole European Union.

The official statistics of the European Union indicates about twelve million population of Roma origin. We give you as an example Bulgaria, where the official statistics indicates about three hundred and seventy thousand Bulgarian citizens of Roma origin.

In 2002, however, the then Prime-Minister Simeon Sakskoburgotski indicated more than eight hundred thousand Bulgarian citizens of Roma origin. We assure you, that one of the reasons for this difference is incorrectly created inquiry cards at the last statistical counting.

With view to the above-exposed and confirmed, that the time would no more allow us games in programmes, strategies, conceptions, decades and similar useful efforts, we appeal to you for unification of the efforts of all responsible institutions, political parties and personalities in the European Union, in the name of the prevention of the appearing socially – demographic catastrophe.

In this connection we offer you:

1. Immediate starting of a debate within the framework of the European Union and the countries candidate-members of the European Union, in which actively to take part all interested parties, in which strongly engaged to be the proved Roma political representation. End purpose of this debate to be the drawing up of „European anti-crisis strategy for settlement of the Roma problems“.

2. To the European Commission to be established additional executive body (it would be nice to be a commissariat) with its own structures in the countries members of the European Union, with one and only function – carrying out of “European anti-crisis strategy for settlement of the Roma problems”.

3. In budget 2011 of the European Union to be stipulated the necessary resources for financing of “European anti-crisis strategy for settlement of the Roma problems”.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We assure you, that in the person of EUROROMA all responsible factors and institutions in the European Union can see one responsible, steady and prudent partner.

As up to the present moment, and in the future our influence in the Republic of Bulgaria and in the European Union shall be used only and solely for consolidation of the European society as a whole, in the name of the prosperity of the European Union.

S O S:

**THE NEXT GENERATIONS SHALL NOT FORGIVE US OUR INACTION!
WE EXPECT YOUR IMMEDIATE REACTION!**

**City of Sofia
17 May 2010**

**Political council
of EUROROMA**