

WORKSHOP

«LIFTING THE BARRIERS OF SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: ROMA POPULATION CASES BEFORE THE OMBUDSMAN»

7-8 December 2007

Old Parliament building, Nafplion, Greece

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday 6th of December, 2007

17:00 *Coach transportation from Athens to Nafplion*
(circa 2½ hours drive to Nafplion)

20.30 *Reception Dinner*

Friday 7th of December, 2007

OPENING SESSION

9.15 **Welcoming speeches**

Panagiotis Anagnostaras - Major of Nafplion Municipality
Yorgos Kaminis, Greek Ombudsman,

9.40 **The concept of the workshop, presentation of the participants and of the themes
of the event**

Andreas Takis, Greek deputy Ombudsman for Human Rights

10:00 **The comparative advantage of the Ombudsman as guarantor of Roma rights**

Markus Jaeger, Deputy to the Director, Office of the Council of Europe
Commissioner for Human Rights :

**SESSION I NORMATIVE AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE REGARDING
ROMA POPULATIONS**

Chair: tbd

10:20 **Overview of the ECHR case law concerning Roma**
Giovanni Bonello, Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg

10.40 **Initiatives of the Council of Europe against Roma social exclusion**, Henry
Scicluna, Council of Europe Coordinator for Roma and Travellers activities

11:00 Discussion

11.30 *Coffee break*

SESSION II “ROMA INVISIBILITY” BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Yorgos Kaminis – The Greek Ombudsman

12.00 **Civic registration difficulties as seen by the Roma**
Lefteris Kostantinidis – Secretary of the “Rom Network” - Greece

12.20 **The difficulties as seen by the authorities**
Fotini Margelou - Representative of the Unit for Civic and Municipal registration –
Greek Ministry of Interior

12.40 **Possibilities for intervention by the ombudsman**
Jernej Rovsek, Deputy secretary General, Human Rights Ombudsman of
Slovenia

13.00 Discussion

13.50 *Lunch at the town center*

SESSION III PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF ROMA CHILDREN

Chair: tbd

- 17.30 **The differential requirements of Roma education**
Giorgos Mavromatis, Education sociologist – Centre for Minority Studies (KEMO)
- 17.50 **Combating Roma social exclusion through education**
Sasa Jankovic, Ombudsman of the Republic of Serbia
- 18.10 **Possibilities for intervention by the ombudsman**
Giorgos Moschos, Greek deputy Ombudsman for Children’s Rights
- 18.30 Discussion
- 20.30 Dinner in the town center

Saturday 8th of December 2007

SESSION IV HOUSING OF ROMA

Chair: Louiza Kyriakaki, Member of the Council of Europe group of experts on
Roma (MG-S-Rom)

- 9.10 **Insecure settlements: From evictions to “incentives” for resettlement**
Mr. Andrzej Mirga, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti, ODIHR/OSCE
- 9.30 **Temporary solutions and permanent housing. State planning and realities**
Lambros Michos, Mayor of Agia Varvara municipality
- 9.50 **Possibilities for intervention by the ombudsman**
Chrysi Hatzi, Deputy Ombudsman for Quality of Life
- 10.10 Discussion
- 11:00 *Visit in groups to Roma settlements around Nafplion and discussion with local population.*
- 13:30 *Lunch at Nea Kios*

**SESSION V WORKGROUP EXERCISE – HANDLING OF MOOT CASES PROPOSED BY
NGO'S**

Presentation of Roma cases

*(Participating NGOs propose one symptomatic real complaints against the public
administration for each of the workshop's thematic sessions (5 minutes) – ombudsmen
explain how they could have handled the case (5minutes) – Discussion (10 minutes): 20
minutes per case)*

Chair: Kostis Papaioannou, President of the Greek National Commission for
Human Rights

17:30 **Case 1 on registration**

17:50 **Case 2 on education**

18:10 **Case 3 on housing**

CLOSING SESSION

18.30 **Closing Remarks**

Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
Yorgos Kaminis, Greek Ombudsman

20.30 *Buffet Dinner*

Sunday 9th of December, 2007

9:30 *Departure of participants. Transportation by coach to Athens centre or/and Athens
airport.*