



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels – 13 September 2010

European foundations express deep concern at the situation of Roma and endorse the European Parliament's resolution

In the wake of Roma expulsions from France, the European Foundation Centre (EFC) Forum for Roma Inclusion met in Vienna on 9-10 September to renew their ongoing efforts to abate Roma exclusion and step up actions to promote European values.

Foundations are using private funds to protect and promote rights of Roma across Europe by creating opportunities for education and employment of Roma children and youth as well as the provision of financial and other services to fight discrimination against Roma.

"What is happening today to Roma communities could happen tomorrow to any minority community" said Christian Petry, Chair of the EFC Forum for Roma Inclusion.

In light of these efforts, the EFC Forum for Roma Inclusion urges EU Member States and institutions to adhere to the European Parliament Resolution of 9 September 2010. In particular, the Forum calls on the European Commission as a matter of urgency to fulfil its obligation as guardian of the Treaty to fully ensure that governments respect European laws they themselves created *"otherwise all European citizens are at risk."*

Recognising the need for a concerted European response to recent violations of European values and rights, the Forum fully endorses the European Parliament's resolution and highlights its continued commitment to making a concerted contribution by the foundation sector to Roma inclusion in Europe.

"We praise the European Parliament's commitment to Roma rights and appeal to the urgent need for the tangible development of an EU Roma Strategy."

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The European Foundation Centre (EFC) **Forum for Roma Inclusion** convenes foundations and other stakeholders with an aim to make a distinctive contribution to the European Roma agenda and to mobilise the foundation sector to play a catalytic role in the inclusion of Roma in Europe through sharing a building knowledge and experience, providing strategic input to European initiatives, and design and implementation of activities to abate Roma exclusion.

Notes to Editors

- The European Foundation Centre (EFC), founded in 1989, is the leading membership association representing public-benefit foundations at European level. It is based in Brussels
- The EFC currently has 233 members including community and independent foundations as well as corporate funders spread across 40 countries. A majority (86%) are based in Europe.

- The EFC has established a range of Interest Groups and Forums which facilitate cooperation and exchanges of good practice among members across a wide range of fields of activity including: diversity, migration and integration; human rights and disability; protecting the environment; HIV/AIDS; global health challenges; social investment; central and eastern Europe.
- The EFC hosts the secretariat of **Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE)**, which supports cooperation among national networks covering 22 European countries.
- The EFC coordinates the **European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding**, which was launched in 2007 with the support of the European Commission and other partners.

For more information about the EFC and its members please visit: www.efc.be