



Support Roma Diplomacy

The Roma Diplomacy project is organized by the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) and DiploFoundation, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest, the US Embassy in Bucharest, the European Parliament, Office of Livia Jaroka, the Roma Participation Programme, Open Society Institute and the European Commission Delegation in Romania.

For further information, details about how you can get involved, and project updates, please visit <http://www.diplomacy.edu/roma> or contact roma@diplomacy.edu.



The European Roma Information Office (ERIO), located in Brussels, contributes to the political and public discussions surrounding Roma by providing factual and in-depth information. ERIO works to counteract the historical and current discrimination and exclusion of Romani communities and to contribute to equal representation and participation of Roma in political decision-making. In particular, ERIO seeks to convince EU institutions of the importance of prioritizing equitable development opportunities for Roma in all current and future EU member states, especially those with large Roma populations. For more information please see <http://www.erionet.org>.



Diplo is a non-profit foundation which works to assist all countries, particularly those with limited resources, to participate meaningfully in international relations. Diplo promotes a multistakeholder approach, involving the participation of international organisations, civil society and other actors in international affairs. Diplo's activities include education and training programs, research, and the development of information and communications technologies for diplomatic activities. For more information please see <http://www.diplomacy.edu>.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Roma Diplomacy: A Challenge for European Institutions?

Brussels, December 8 - 9, 2005

Organized by ERIO and DiploFoundation

Hosted by the European Parliament. Opening Address by European Parliament President Josep Borrell.

Following its resolution from April 29, 2005, which acknowledged the discrimination and substandard living conditions faced by Roma in Europe, the European Parliament forwarded a series of recommendations asking the Commission to "raise the Roma issue to a pan-European level." The conference on Roma Diplomacy will provide a forum where European level civil servants, diplomats, politicians and Roma rights activists can exchange views towards this goal. The conference will examine options and strategies, and prepare a list of recommendations for European institutions.

The conference forms part of the Roma Diplomacy project (see overleaf) which aims to train young Roma rights activists as public diplomats with the skills needed to represent their communities. Besides traditional lobbying activities and human rights advocacy, Roma diplomats will be called upon to function on the international diplomatic scene.

Conference Themes

- European Parliament and Commission: Roma Inclusion in European Institutions: From Words to Deeds
- The Role of Diplomacy and International Action in Curbing Antigypsyism in Europe
- Roma Women in Diplomacy and Politics
- Public Diplomacy and Political Representation for Roma – Ways Forward
- The Role of Civil Society and the Church in Facilitating the Transition to Equal Opportunities for Roma

Each panel will include short presentations followed by discussion. On the final afternoon, conference participants will break up into small groups to draft conference recommendations.



Invited Speakers (preliminary list)

Opening Panels

- **Josep Borrell** – President of the European Parliament
- **Rudko Kawczynski** – President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum
- **Rev. Jean-Arnold de Clermont** – President of the Conference of European Churches
- **Livia Jaroka** – Roma MEP for Hungary, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats
- **Katalin Levai** – MEP, Vice-president of the EP Legal Committee and member of the EP Human Rights Committee

- **Michael Cashman** – Labour MEP for the West Midlands
- **Viktoria Mohacsi** – Roma MEP for Hungary, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Topic Panels

- **Maria Carlshamre** – Political Adviser, Liberal Party of Sweden in the European Parliament
- **David Crowe** – Elon University
- **Nicolae Gheorghe** – Head of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti, ODIHR
- **Michael Guet** – Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, Council of Europe
- **Ian Hancock** – Director, the Romani Archives and Documentation Center, University of Texas at Austin
- **Jonathan Hill** – Head of UEFA's EU Office
- **Ion Jinga** – Romanian Ambassador to Belgium
- **Kirsti Koltthoff** – President of the European Women's Lobby
- **Jovan Kurbalija** – Roma Diplomacy Project Chair, Director of DiploFoundation
- **Andre Liebich** – Chair of the Roma Diplomacy Advisory Group, Graduate Institute of International Relations, Geneva
- **Anthony Lockett** – Head of Anti-Discrimination Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- **Valeriu Nicolae** – Roma Diplomacy Project Coordinator, Deputy Director of ERIO
- **Anne-Sophie Parent** – President of Social Platform
- **Elly Rijnierse** – CordAid
- **Iulius Rostas** – OSI Budapest
- **Henry Scicluna** – Coordinator for Activities concerning Roma and Travellers, Council of Europe
- **Vladimir Spidla** – Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- **Christian Strohal** – Director, ODIHR, OSCE
- **Miranda Vuolasranta** – Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe
- **Jan Marinus Wiersma** – Vice-chairman, Socialist Group in the European Parliament
- **Andre Wilkins** – Director, OSI Brussels
- **Beate Winkler** – Director of EUMC
- **Colin Wolf** – Head of Unit, DG Regio

Registration

For information about how to register for this event, please visit <http://www.diplomacy.edu/Roma> or contact roma@diplomacy.edu.

Roma Diplomacy Project

The Roma Diplomacy project aims to build a group of Roma "public diplomats" with the ability to bridge the gap between Roma civil society and governments/EU institutions. The project builds on existing Roma rights networks, so that activists can use diplomatic channels for fast and appropriate response to challenges facing Roma. ICT tools and a collaborative online platform will facilitate the sharing of research and experience of Roma and human rights activists with a focus on diplomacy. The project also aims to build awareness of Roma rights issues on the local, national and international level through academic dialogue, research and the dissemination of information, and to form the basis of a Roma "think tank" which can inform and steer the process of Roma social inclusion in a united Europe.

The project includes:

- a **capacity building educational programme** including skills training and academic study of diplomacy and human rights advocacy related topics
- **individual and collaborative research** projects on topics related to Roma rights and diplomacy
- an **online knowledge sharing platform** for Roma rights activists
- **conference scholarships, visits and internships** in EU institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations
- conferences with leading experts in the field and a publication on Roma rights and diplomacy with the aim of **awareness building**.