

Starting with January 2019, for the first time ever, Romania takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. For six months, Romania will be at the heart of the European decision making process, with an important role in facilitation of the reflection process on the tools for development and the strengthening of the European project, of the negotiation process for the development of the community acquis and, consequently, for the fostered cooperation of the EU Member States. The Presidency of the Council of the European Union represents an occasion for Romania to reaffirm its commitment and at the same time to contribute to the Union's progress with the EU Agenda on Roma inclusion.

As indicated in the Commission's recent mid-term evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies<sup>1</sup> (herein referred to as "the evaluation of the EU Framework"), the EU framework has been key for the development of EU and national instruments and structures promoting Roma inclusion. However socio-economic exclusion, discrimination, antigypsyism and hate crime against Roma continue to be a matter of high concern. Therefore, the Romanian Presidency aims to address Roma inclusion as a priority on the EU agenda. The unprecedented commitment of 2011 when the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, was adopted, requires long term efforts and political will in all EU Member States, but also in the enlargement countries.

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU aims at building on the previous work of the Slovak and Austrian Presidencies, which successfully managed to advance Roma issues at the European and national level. Based on these advancements and on the conclusions of the evaluation of the EU Framework, the **High Level Conference on the EU Framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies** aims to build on the lessons learned by countries since the adoption of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 and to encourage Member States and enlargement countries to commit to a process of Roma inclusion beyond 2020.

The event will bring together around 150 participants, representing relevant national authorities of the EU Member States and enlargement countries, EU institutions, international organizations, EU and national-level civil society, Roma youth, media and academia. The conference's objectives are:

- Identify the lessons learned at EU and national level in the field of socio-economic inclusion of Roma (education, health, housing, labour market) and in fighting discrimination and antigypsyism.
- Identify the challenges that affect the implementation of the EU Framework on National Roma Inclusion Strategies at the level of the Member States and in the enlargement region.
- Identify solutions to strengthen the relevance, effectiveness, coherence and, coordination of the EU framework and the National Roma Integration Strategies, in view of a better impact and sustainability, based on the lessons learned.
- Strengthen the commitment of the EU Member States and enlargement countries to Roma inclusion as a priority at the European and national levels, in view of a Roma policy beyond 2020.

1. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1544112037077&uri=CELEX:52018DC0785>



## CONFERINȚA LA NIVEL ÎNALT PRIVIND CADRUL UE AL STRATEGIILOR NAȚIONALE PENTRU INCLUZIUNEA ROMILOR

## I KONFERINTZA PO UČHO LEVELO ANDAR O KADRO EU ĀL STRATEŽJENGO LE THEMENGE VAŚ I INKLUZĀ LE ROMENGI

## HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON EU FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL ROMA INTEGRATION STRATEGIES

*COHESION, A COMMON EUROPEAN VALUE*

*4 – 5 March 2019  
Palace of the Parliament  
Bucharest, Romania*

**Monday 4 March, 2019 – Lessons learnt  
Strengths and challenges of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies at  
European and National level**

**09.00 – 10.00** Participants 'arrival and registration.  
Welcoming coffee

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**10.00 – 10.30** **Opening Remarks**

Mr **George Ciamba**, Minister Delegate for European Affairs, Government of Romania  
Mr **Szabolcs Schmidt**, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission  
Mrs **Soraya Post**, MEP, S&D, European Parliament  
Mr **Daniel Vasile**, MP, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania  
Mr **Jeroen Schokkenbroek**, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe  
*Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro*

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**10:30 – 12:30** **Session I:  
Strengths and challenges of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 at  
the European level**

Discussions will cover overall relevance of the EU Framework, its EU added value, mainstreaming of Roma inclusion in EU policies as well as the tools and mechanisms put in place at the European level to advance the implementation of national Roma integration strategies in Member States and enlargement countries.  
Panel discussion

Mr **Romeo Franz**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament  
Mr **Szabolcs Schmidt**, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission  
Mr **Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos**, Senior Scientific Advisor, Fundamental Rights Agency  
Mrs **Brigit Van Hout** – UN Human Rights Office Regional Representative for Europe  
Mrs **Aurora Ailincăi**, Head of Strategic Partnership Unit, CoE  
Mr **Daniel Radulescu**, President, National Agency for the Roma  
*Session's format - Panel discussion followed by Q&A session.  
Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro  
Rapporteur – Mrs Isabela Mihalache, ENAR*

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**12:30 – 14:00** **Lunch**

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**14:00 – 16:30** **Session II – Strengths and challenges of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies at  
the national level**

Discussions will in particular cover barriers to increased effectiveness of the EU Framework at national level. Discussions will also focus on mainstreaming of Roma inclusion in national public policies and tools and instruments put in place at national level to advance Roma inclusion.

Mr **Octav Dan Paxino**, State Secretary, Ministry of European Funds  
Mrs **Susanne Pfanner**, AT National Roma Contact Point  
Mr **Juraj Kuruc**, SK National Roma Contact Point  
Mrs **Sarita Friman**, FI National Roma Contact Point  
Mrs **Merita XHAFAJ**, Albanian National Roma Contact Point  
Mr **Dan Pavel Doghi** – OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Mrs **Tatiana Proskuryakova** – Country manager – World Bank  
Mr **Pieter Bult** – Country representative, UNICEF Romania  
*Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro  
Rapporteur – Mr Marius Tudor, EPHA*

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**16:30 – 17:00** **Coffee Break**

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**17:00 – 18:00** **Concluding Remarks**

Wrap-up by the rapporteurs: Mrs Isabela Mihalache and Mr Marius Tudor  
Mr **Varujan Pambuccian**, MP, Head of National Minorities Caucus, Chamber of Deputies – Parliament of Romania  
Mrs **Oana Pintilei**, State Secretary, General Secretariat of the Government (Romania)  
Mr **Szabolcs Schmidt**, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission  
*Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro*

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**18:30** **Cultural event and Dinner**

The cultural event organised by the National Agency for Roma and the National Centre for Roma Culture "Romano Kher" at the conference's venue

**Tuesday 5 March, 2019 Political discussions  
Towards an EU post-2020 Roma agenda - The way forward**

**09.00 – 10.00** **Participants 'arrival welcome coffee**

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**10.00 – 10.30** **Opening Remarks**

Mr **Toni Grebla**, Secretary-General of the Romanian Government  
Mrs **Tiina Astola**, Director-General for Justice and Consumers  
Mr **Florin Manole**, Deputy, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania  
Mrs **Livia JÁRÓKA**, Vice-President of the European Parliament (video message)  
*Moderator – Iulian Paraschiv, Chief of staff, National Agency for the Roma*

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**10:30 – 11:30** **Panel 1: Generating commitments for future Roma inclusion policies**

The discussions will attempt to steer reflections on a future EU Roma agenda for National Roma Integration Strategies beyond 2020.

Mr **Alexandru Victor Micula**, State Secretary, MoFA, Romania  
Mr **Sylvain Mathieu**, the Interministerial Delegate for housing, France  
Mrs **Soraya Post**, MEP, S&D, European Parliament  
Mrs **Gabriela Hrabanova**, Executive Director ERGO, Brussels  
Mr **Gelu Duminiță**, Agentia de Dezvoltare Comunitara "Impreuna"  
Panel discussion, followed by Q&As session  
*Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro*

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**Working coffee break**

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**11:30 - 13:00** **Panel 2: Role of Roma in shaping future relevant inclusion policies**

The panellists will present their reflections on Role of Roma in shaping future relevant inclusion policies beyond 2020.

Mr **Romeo Franz**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament  
Mr **Tudor Buzatu**, State Secretary, Implementation of Romania's Strategic Partnerships, Government of Romania  
Mrs **Nicoleta Bițu**, President of the Democratic Federation of Roma from Romania  
Mr **Adriatik Hasantari**, Director, Roma Active Albania (RAA)  
Mr **Daniel Rădulescu**, President, National Agency for the Roma (RO)  
Including Q&As session.  
*Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro*

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**13:00 – 13:30** **Closing remarks**

Mrs **Gabriela Crețu**, Head of European Affairs Committee in Senate  
Mr **Damian Drăghici**, MEP, S&D, European Parliament  
Mr **Szabolcs Schmidt**, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission  
Mrs **Dana Varga**, State Councillor Prime Minister's office  
Mr **Iulian Paraschiv**, Chief of staff, National Agency for the Roma  
*Moderator – Dan Cărbunaru, CaleaEuropeana.ro*

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**13:30** Lunch and departures of the participants