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COHOM 54
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NOTE

from: Commission
to: Delegations

Subject: 2015 Report on the implementation of the EU framework on national Roma
integration strategies
- Presentation by the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note prepared by the Commission on the above subject, with a view to the EPSCO Council on 18 June 2015 (AOB item).

Explanatory note from the European Commission
on the
"Report on the implementation of the EU Framework on National Roma Integration
Strategies 2015"

The EU Framework on Roma Integration was adopted in 2011 to coordinate action by Member States to improve integration of Roma communities across the European Union. Under the EU Framework, endorsed by EU leaders at the **European Council** of 23-24 June 2011, Member States committed for the first time to developing and implementing national strategies on Roma integration.

The Framework also sets out responsibilities at European level, under which the Commission assesses the national strategies and their implementation through annual monitoring reports, which are a key tool of the EU Roma policy. The Commission therefore reports annually to the European Parliament and the Council on the progress made by Member States.

The first Commission Report was adopted in 2012 and provided a full assessment of the National Strategies. The Commission concluded that the necessary preconditions for a successful implementation of the national strategies still had to be secured. The second Report in 2013 assessed the progress on these preconditions.

In December 2013, the Member States adopted the first ever legal instrument on Roma, in the form of a Council Recommendation that steps up the EU Framework by giving Member States specific guidance on implementing their national strategies. The Council Recommendation focuses on all areas covered by the EU Framework, including education, employment, health, housing and anti-discrimination but also on other weaknesses identified during the monitoring process, such as participation of Roma communities in policy implementation.

The Commission Progress Report of 2014 evaluated the progress on the ground in all areas and covered the full period between 2011 and 2014.

Outline of the "Report on the implementation of the EU Framework on National Roma Integration Strategies 2015"

The 2015 Progress Report will focus on the progress made by Member States in reinforcing the structural aspects necessary for the effective implementation of their national strategies, including EU funding, coordination mechanisms at the national level (including the work of National Roma Contact points with local authorities and civil society), fighting discrimination, as well as monitoring. The 2015 Report is the first to provide an overview on how the Member States have used the new possibilities offered by the new financial programming period 2014-2020 (European Structural and Investment Funds) to better support Roma integration.
