

**[2] Resolution adopted by the EPP Congress**  
**Rome, 30-31 March 2006**

**Educational and Employment Situation  
of the Roma in the European Union**

- A. whereas Roma children in several Member States are routinely placed in segregated schools with inferior instruction or a curriculum for the mentally handicapped;
- B. whereas Roma children in non-Roma schools are frequently subjected to physical and verbal harassment, sometimes with the collusion and even involvement of teachers and staff;
- C. whereas Roma children, especially girls, are frequently forced to leave school early either to help out with household chores or to seek employment in order to contribute to their families' incomes;
- D. whereas Roma are not targeted by the National Action Plans on employment by most Member States, despite unemployment levels as high as 80 per cent in some Roma communities;
- E. whereas inadequate access to education and employment opportunities leads to social exclusion and a cycle of poverty,
- F. whereas the Lisbon Strategy emphasizes employment issues, but the European Employment Strategy fails specifically to address the Roma issue;
- G. whereas the plight of the Roma is similar throughout the Member States;

**Recommends the European People's Party to:**

- take into account the special situation of the Roma in its work, including policy proposals, reports, and resolutions.
- adopt a policy and encourage its member parties to adopt measures in their own national governments which aim to improve the situation of the Roma.
- organize a European-level conference to promote real integration of Roma in all aspects of society.
- increase cooperation with Churches and religious organizations and civil rights organizations.
- promote the creation of a Roma Network Centre in Brussels, by creating a space in which the needs of the Roma can be discussed.
- take full advantage of the Roma Network Centre upon its establishment, as it will serve as a valuable forum for the development of comprehensive, well-informed policies which address the needs of the Roma after thorough discourse and examination with multiple parties.

**Recommends the following to EPP member parties to incorporate in their policies:**

### **General**

- I. Compel Member States to transpose into national law, and ensure effective implementation of, the Race Directive (2000/43/EC) and the Employment Directive (2000/78/EC).
- III. Recommend that Member States implement concrete measures to ensure that all Roma are assured equal access to integrated education and to promote an educational system which ensures all students a respectful, safe environment conducive to learning

### **Specific recommendations in Education**

- I. Eliminate segregation and substandard education of Roma
- II. Increase school enrolment percentages and prevent early drop-outs among Roma children
- III. Include Roma history and culture within the national school curricula
- IV. Eliminate the social stigma associated with the Roma ethnicity, focusing particularly on people of mixed origin
- V. Combat Anti-Gypsyism and promote values of tolerance and respect via education
- VI. Evaluate periodically the effectiveness of educational policies

### **Specific Recommendations in Employment**

- I. Promote employment equality
- II. Increase the employment of Roma in the public sector
- III. Increase the employment of Roma in the private sector
- IV. Promote entrepreneurship among the Roma
- V. Develop policies and programmes related to life-long learning and vocational training to improve the employability and entrepreneurial skills of Roma
- VI. Endorse a shared commitment to an intercultural workplace