



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 9 June 2008

10481/08

SOC 351

NOTE

from : The Romanian delegation
to : COUNCIL (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)

Subject : Social Inclusion of Roma
- Request from the Romanian delegation
(Any other business item)

Delegations will find attached a note from the Romanian Delegation.

Social Inclusion of Roma

EPSCO Council on 9 June 2008, Item „Any other business” on the Agenda

Equal opportunities for all and the fight against discrimination are core values of the European Union, enshrined in Article 13 of the Treaty. Acknowledging this, the European Council in December 2007, conscious of the very specific situation faced by the Roma population across the Union, invited Member States and the EU to use all means to improve their inclusion. To this end, the Commission was invited to examine existing policies and instruments and to report to the Council on progress achieved before the end of June 2008.

The Commission has already stated that the situation of the Roma in Europe is unacceptable from an ethical, social and human point of view and represents a threat to social cohesion in Europe, because we are tackling not only discrimination against individuals but also the social exclusion of an ethnic group on a collective level.

Therefore, Romania is looking forward to the publication of the anti-discrimination package at the end of June at the latest, which we hope will illuminate future work in the Council on this issue.
