

FRA Press Release  
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## **International Roma Day 2010: Roma Involvement in Policy Design and Implementation Crucial**

**Every second Roma respondent to the Fundamental Rights Agency's EU-MIDIS survey said that they had been discriminated against in the past 12 months. Roma access to housing, education, health care and employment is hindered as a result. If the situation is to change, Roma and Traveller involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of strategies targeting them is essential, stresses the Fundamental Rights Agency on International Roma Day 2010.**

*"There are areas where improvements can be seen, but in too many places the situation is worse. As we witness high levels of racially motivated crime against Roma, the highest levels of EU and national authorities must now speak out against anti-Gypsyism and lead by example on human rights protection...Especially in times of economic crises, human rights need to be seen as an asset to our well being, not as a cost," Morten Kjaerum, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.*

After two fruitful days of discussion with Romani women's networks at the Roundtable discussion '[On a Road to Equality](#)', the Fundamental Rights Agency highlights the need for increased Roma and Traveller involvement in policy making. The Roundtable was held in Córdoba, Spain on the eve of the [Second European Roma Summit](#) taking place there. The Summit brings together national and EU policy makers to discuss promoting policies in favour of the estimated 10 million strong Roma population in the European Union.

In his address to the summit, the Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency, Morten Kjaerum, highlighted the need for all of those involved to assume joint responsibility for improving the situation for the Roma.

The Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency and a Roma Spanish representative will hold a breakfast with the media on 9 April at 10:00 am in Córdoba Hotel NH Amistad at Plaza de Maimónides 3, 14004 Córdoba.

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**Fundamental Rights Agency reports on the situation of the Roma in the European Union are available on: [www.fra.europa.eu](http://www.fra.europa.eu)**  
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