WRITTEN QUESTION P-5770/07 by Roberta Alma Anastase (PPE-DE) to the Commission

Subject: Development of a European policy for upholding Roma rights and creation of a European agency for the defence of those rights

Mutual tolerance and multiethnic integration are fundamental principles of the European Union, and the Roma are a major population group on the European scale with a significant impact on socio-political and economic life in many EU Member States. Bearing in mind the specific culture and way of life of the Roma, their great geographic mobility and their distribution throughout the EU, it is more than necessary to develop a cohesive approach at European level with a view to integrating the Roma and ensuring a common basis for Roma rights and responsibilities in their capacity as Community citizens.

In that respect, is there any policy at EU level for the defence and integration of the Roma? How does the Commission intend to develop such a policy and what would its priorities be, particularly in the context of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008? How does the Commission view the possibility of creating a European agency for the defence of Roma rights, which would coordinate and ensure the cohesion and attainment of objectives on the defence of Roma rights at European level?

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