

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 16 - 27 September 2019**

EU Right of Reply – Working Session 16

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to thank the civil society representatives that took the floor in this session and provided us with their assessments and recommendations on today's topic. The OSCE commitments in this field are more relevant than ever and their full implementation continues to be the EU's guiding principle.

In reply to the statement of the Russian Federation, since 2011, with the adoption of the *Framework for the National Roma Integration Strategies* by the European Council, the European Union has put Roma and Sinti integration high on the political agenda. A solid policy, legal and financial framework has been developed at both EU and national levels, which is constantly being assessed and updated. A recent evaluation by the European Commission indicated that we have seen positive results and a change in trends, however, limitations remain and further steps are needed.

We would like to reiterate that the EU and its Member States remain strongly committed to fighting discrimination and accelerating the process of Roma persons' integration.

Thank you.