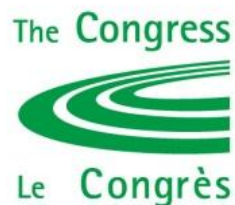




European Alliance
of Cities & Regions
for Roma Inclusion



**Launch of
the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion
Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 20th March 2013**

Draft Programme (latest update: 15/03/2013)

Timetable

Event

10. 15

Press Conference, Salle 17 (ground floor)

Herwig VAN STAA, President of the Congress

Jeroen SCHOKKENBROEK, Special Representative of the General Secretary for Roma Issues

John WARMISHAM, Rapporteur for Roma issues, Member of the Congress

Nawel RAFIK-ELMRINI, Deputy Mayor of the City of Strasbourg, founding participant of the Alliance

Darko RUDAS, President of Forum of Roma councillors of Slovenia, and Roma councillor in Municipality of Murska Sobota, Slovenia (participating in the Alliance, introducing their good practices)

Moderator: Can FISEK, Council of Europe Communication Department

16. 45

Plenary Sitting at Hemicycle

Current Affairs Debate: Combating social exclusion

Statements by:

Maria ANDRIKOPOULOU-ROUVALI, Deputy-Mayor of Patras, Greece

Damien EGAN, Cabinet Member for Strategy and



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of Cities & Regions
for Roma Inclusion

The Congress

Le Congrès



Communications, Lewisham Council, United Kingdom

Bernard MULLER, Mayor of Commercy, France

Debate

18. 00 until 18. 30 **Launch of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion, Hemicycle**

Statements by:

Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Johannes HAHN, (Video Message) EU Commissioner for Regional Policy

Rudko KAWCZYNSKI, President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum

Despoina SYGGELAKI, Vice-Mayor of Heraklion (participating in the Alliance Core Group)

Francisco Javier RAMIREZ, Director of The Institute of Rehousing and Social Integration, Region of Madrid (participating in the Alliance)

Herwig VAN STAA, President of the Congress

19. 00 (end of sitting) **“Family Photo” with Alliance-representatives in the Hemicycle**

Transport with shuttle buses (departure 19.30 and 19.45) to:

From 19. 30 **Reception given by the City of Strasbourg and the Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin, Hôtel de Ville (Place Broglie) start 20. 00**

For Congress Members, Alliance Participants and Journalists*

Food Arrangement by the local Roma Community of Strasbourg

Music by “Engé Group” (Roma and Sinti Jazz Quintet) with Bianca



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The Congress

Le Congrès



Madalina Alecu (Flute)

**please RSVP to Mr. Nikolai Atefie*

Exhibition

In addition there will be an exhibition on Roma Issues held **from Monday 18th March to Thursday 28th March** in the lobby of the Committee of Ministers, 2nd Floor.

Artists

- Francine MAYRAN – Painter - “The Roma "Pharrajmos": Memory and Oblivion” (Painting and Texts)
- Sandro WELTIN – Council of Europe Photographer - “Meeting the Roma” - pictures taken between 2008 and 2011 in Kosovo*, Serbia and Romania

Contact for press and event inquiries:

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**Any references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*