

## **CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FROM ROMANI NGOS**

The Decade of Roma Inclusion is one of the most important organisational projects in which European Union (EU) member and candidate countries have been working to improve the living conditions of their Romani populations. Among the EU candidate countries, the only country that has not joined this initiative is Turkey.

The Decade of Roma Inclusion aims towards the integration of Roma with the general public; a declaration by governments regarding the formulation of democratic, just and lasting resolutions to the problems of Roma in the spheres of education, employment, health and housing and the adoption of the necessary steps within the framework of a national programme.

The 12 countries currently taking part in the Decade of Roma Inclusion are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain. A thirteenth country, Slovenia, has observer status.

In light of the experience that the participating countries have accumulated, it is clear that Turkey's participation to the Decade of Roma Inclusion will provide the impetus to tackle issues that Roma face in our country. Joining the Decade of Roma Inclusion will also make a valuable contribution to Turkey's ongoing membership negotiation process with the EU.

We, the Roma NGOs who are the signatories of this declaration, call on the State of the Republic of Turkey to take the necessary steps to become a party to the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

Ankara, April 2009

### **SIGNATORIES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER**

Ankara Romanlar Derneđi  
Bartın Romanlar Derneđi  
Dikili Roman Derneđi  
Diyarbakır Dom Derneđi  
Edirne Roman Derneđi  
Edremit Romanlar Derneđi  
Ege Roman Dernekleri Federasyonu  
İpsala Romanlar Derneđi  
İstanbul Gazi Osman Paşa Roma Girişimi  
İzmir Çağdaş Romanlar Derneđi  
İzmir Roman Derneđi  
İzmir Roman Ateşi Halk Oyunları Derneđi  
Keşan Romanlar Derneđi  
Kırklareli Romanlar Derneđi  
Körfez Roman Derneđi  
Lalapaşa Romanlar Derneđi  
Lüleburgaz Romanlar Derneđi  
Mersin Romanlar Derneđi  
Roman Dernekleri Federasyonu  
Sulukule Romanlar Derneđi  
Tekirdağ Malkara Roman Hamallar Yardımlaşma Derneđi  
Tekirdağ Malkara Romanlar Derneđi  
Tekirdağ Muratlı Roma Derneđi