

NGO - Association of World Citizens on Item IX

Thank you Chairperson,

We are here before a small door opened by a civil society during the days of the commission to certain representatives of the Roma following the Council of the European Union and the NGOs, Mr Jan Jarab. I think that it now seems that Europe has understood that Roma are part of them; and that their dignity is our dignity. I wanted to comment on begging, which the European police concentrate on. You can take away the little money they get, without them having a word to say. But there are many positive examples, many projects, which are being agreed, implemented and built. I am talking about Switzerland really, because I have had an occasion to talk about what has been happening in Switzerland.

We requested public funds, we asked the communes. The same communes who had helped the villages, which have been wiped out in Romania to rebuild. There are projects, which worked extremely well and are working extremely well. Particularly in public baths, sanitation. A lot of people from the [Ayud] region, for example, regularly come to France and Switzerland but they wash in the rivers and they have no access to drinking waters. So we tried to restore public baths as there were 50 years ago in Romania. Small projects but important. We must also consider access to health-care, because there is very little available in the public health area; a lot of discrimination in the medical field. Young girls are also being targeted, young girls who are being targeted very young, and get pregnant very young. And there are far too many children who are disabled from birth. Just a few small examples, but which give an idea of the sort of thing that is happening right alongside us. Thank you madam.