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ERPC's after Roma summit reaction on the Joint Statement of the EU Trio Presidency

1. The ERPC thanks the Spanish Presidency of the EU as organizer of the Second European Roma Summit, and welcomes its efforts to achieve concrete progress towards Roma Inclusion.
2. The ERPC considers that the Summit contributions and the Trio Presidency Joint Statement, issued on 9 April 2010, reflects some of the main calls of the ERPC to the EU to develop a strategic, cross-sectoral and long-term approach to Roma Inclusion in Europe.
3. The ERPC considers that the proposed close cooperation between the Trio Presidencies is an important development, which can bring continuity and cohesion in the work of the Council on Roma issues. Emphasizing that this should include the establishment of a formal coordination mechanism between the European Commission and the member states, the ERPC expects the substance of the joint statement to be reflected in the June 2010 Council Conclusions on Roma.
4. The ERPC welcomes in particular
 - The introduction of minimum requirements for EU funding allocations to ensure the equal access of Roma to resources and the modification of funding regulations to ensure that EU funds do not support segregation and are used actively to end segregation;
 - The renewed emphasis of the fundamental rights dimension in its mainstreaming objectives, and the commitment to guarantee personal safety and combat discrimination.

The ERPC urges the Trio to make sure its commitment to provide guidance and support to the platform will result in a mid-term strategic roadmap with concrete indicators to improve the coordination and impact of its activities.

5. The ERPC considers that the joint statement of the Trio Presidency holds great promise and looks forward to contribute, critically but constructively, to help make it a reality. The ERPC fervently hopes that these first steps will lead to the adoption of a comprehensive European Roma strategy.