

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 24 March 2016

Dear Professor Matras, dear Professor Hancock,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March signed by members of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies (EANRS) and the comments on the initial press release accompanying the adoption of the "Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)".

It was particularly unfortunate that the press release did not adequately reflect the political priorities of the document; nor did it reflect the fundamental principles of our policy towards Roma and Travellers as they have developed over the last years. Our Organisation has never left a doubt that the widespread and often systematic discrimination of Roma and Travellers by mainstream society over centuries is responsible for the problems we are seeing today. I can assure you we will make sure that the methods and approaches used for the implementation of the Action Plan will fully dissipate the concerns raised in your letter.

The initial press release has now been removed from our websites. I would like to ask you to share this message with the members of the EANRS.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

Professor Yaron Matras
Professor Ian Hancock
Email: aron.matras@manchester.ac.uk and xulaj@mail.utexas.edu