

**Ms. Salla Saastamoinen**  
Director Equality, DG Justice

European Commission  
1049 Brussels



6 June 2014

Ref: B1588

**FOLLOW UP ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S COMPLAINT OF 23 APRIL 2013  
ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMA IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Dear Ms. Saastamoinen,

We would like to follow up on a complaint that Amnesty International submitted to the European Commission on 22 April 2013.<sup>1</sup> In its complaint, Amnesty International argued that the discriminatory treatment suffered by Roma children with regard to access to education in the Czech Republic constituted a serious breach of the European Union (EU)'s Race Equality Directive (2000/43/EC). Amnesty International therefore urged the European Commission to launch infringement proceedings against the Czech Government. In support of its complaint, Amnesty International enclosed detailed submissions providing evidence of ongoing discrimination against Roma children in the Czech education system, which violated the state's obligations under the above Directive, in particular Articles 2 and Article 3(1)(g).<sup>2</sup>

Your predecessor Mr. Ciobanu-Dordea replied on 30 May 2013, stating that Vice-president Reding had asked "[t]he services of the European Commission [...] to give priority to the examination of all substantive indications and complaints about concrete violations of the Directive 2000/43/EC on Racial Equality. The information [Amnesty International] provided, as well as information on the same issue received from other sources, [were] therefore currently analysed in order to assess the conformity of Czech law and of its application and enforcement with the Directive in this matter. Such an assessment will allow drawing practical conclusions for the necessary follow up by the European Commission in accordance with the provisions of the EU Treaties."<sup>3</sup>

Amnesty International would like to enquire about the current status of our complaint, pursuant to the European Commission's *Communication on the handling of relations with the complainant in respect of the application of Union law*,<sup>4</sup> and in our capacity as interested parties/complainants based on our submissions to the European Commission in April 2013. In particular, we would like to request information on the findings of the investigation carried out on the alleged violations of the Race Equality Directive by the Czech Republic and the conclusions the European Commission has drawn from these investigations.

We look forward to receiving your response to the issues raised in this letter. We thank you for your attention and stand ready to provide any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ivana McGowan".

Ivana McGowan  
Director of Programmes  
Amnesty International European Institutions Office

<sup>1</sup> Our reference: B1446.

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International's submissions to the European Commission are available at:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/fr/library/asset/EUR71/005/2013/en/4c25aec2-ccb4-40e2-85a9-8c406747b842/eur710052013en.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Ares(2013)1529726.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2012) 154 final, in particular points 1, 2, 5, 7,8, 9, and 10.