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**FEDERACIÓ D'ASSOCIACIONS
GITANES DE CATALUNYA**

PRESS RELEASE

Federation of Roma Associations in Catalonia (FAGIC)

CONFERENCE

“Networking as a means of strengthening participation – good practices, strategies and exchange of experiences between Roma NGOs and other Civil Society Organizations”

14-15 of June, 2010

**Office of the European Parliament and the European Commission in
Barcelona**

The following 14th and 15th of June 2010, the **Federation of Roma Associations in Catalonia (FAGIC)** will host a European Conference **“Networking as a means of strengthening participation – good practices, strategies and exchange of experiences between Roma NGOs and other Civil Society Organizations”** which will take place in the Office of the European Parliament in Barcelona. This event concludes the implementation of the European Project *“Empowerment through Networking – Fostering Cooperation between Roma Minorities and Civil Society Organizations”*, financed by the EACEA within the *“Europe for citizens”* Programme and coordinated by FAGIC.

By creating networks and exchanging experiences between different stakeholders, the project aims at filling the gap in cooperation between the Roma organizations and those of the majority of society. In this context, the objective of the conference is to debate on the different opportunities and tools for strengthening the voice of the Roma at the European and national level.

More specifically, the conference aims at increasing the overall participation of the Roma through the building of networks with civil society organizations promoting non-discrimination and social inclusion.

A parallel objective is to discuss good practices and give recommendations for a greater cooperation between the Roma and non-Roma organizations. The Conference will conclude the 9-months of the implementation of the project's activities, presenting reports from the project's partners (ARCI Toscana from Italy and Zentrum für Politik, Kultur und Forschung from Germany) and discussing their findings.

Additionally, the Conference will concentrate on recent developments on the EU level related to the Roma issue, in the context of the current Spanish Presidency of the EU and reflect on the consequences of the economic crisis.

Keynote speakers at the Conference will include representatives from European organizations, governmental representatives, political parties, Roma and non-Roma Civil Society Organizations, academics and other relevant stakeholders.

For participation and/or more information, please contact fagic@hotmail.com or info@fagic.org .

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