



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

**Conference of the S&D Group and the European Forum:
'Strategies for Roma political inclusion in Western Balkans'**

17 April, [Continental Hotel](#), Belgrade, Serbia

Programme

Friday, 16th of April

Arrival of participants and dinner at 20:00 at the hotel

Saturday, 17th of April

08:30 Registration of participants

09:00-12:00 Organised visit to a Roma community in Belgrade, Blok 67

12:00-13:00 **Lunch**

13:00-14:00 **Introductory speeches**

- Jan Marinus Wiersma, vice-president of the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity
- Svetozar Ciplić, Minister of Human and Minority Rights, Democratic Party
- Hannes Swoboda, vice-president of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Q&A

14:00-15:00 **Panel discussion I: position of Roma in society and politics in Western Balkans**

Speakers:

- Prof. dr. Goran Bašić, Ombudsman Deputy and prof. in Political theory and Human Rights and the University of Novi Sad
- Anton Čomka, Roma community representative, expert on Roma issues and political participation of Roma, DUR
- Tom Kelly, country director National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Discussion, representatives socialist and (social) democratic parties in the region and the EU, IGO's and NGO's

Panel I Chaired by Jan Marinus Wiersma, vice-president of the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity

15:00- 15:30 **Coffee & tea break**

15:30-17:00 **Panel discussion II: “developing strategies for Roma political inclusion in Western Balkans”**

Speakers:

- Monika Flasnikova Benova, vice-president of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Slovakia
- Thomas Gnocchi, Head of the Political Section in the EU Delegation to Serbia
- Jordan Vasić, president of the Demokratsko Udruženje Roma (DUR)
- Nura Ismailovski, councilor in Zagreb for the Social Democratic Party of Croatia

Discussion, representatives socialist and (social) democratic parties in the region and the EU, IGO's and NGO's

Panel II Chaired by Jan Marinus Wiersma, vice-president of the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity
