



Romani CRISS

**Agencia de
Monitorizare a
Presei**

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PRESS RELEASE
Another one bites the dust
or
Politicians' racist declarations continue

"We must differentiate between being Gypsism and democracy"
Vasile Dancu, 18 June 2007

Another public declaration where the variations of word Gypsy are used exclusively with negative connotation, as it is even the superlative to express the worst. Are you surprised? We're not. Why should we be when, after the declaration of President Traian Basescu and the complaint lodged by Romani CRISS to the National Council for Combating Discrimination, we received emails stating that we had reacted for nothing because, according to the Romanian Language Dictionary, the noun "Gypsy" is "3. an epithet used in connection with people which misbehave"¹.

And why should we expect more from our politicians. They are, in fact, humans and share the people's mentality. And the mentality is clear: Gypsy is something bad. And if we talk about a situation not related to Roma people, but we want to offend, it's enough to say "Gypsy", "Gypsism" or "they argue as if before a tent's door" even though, until now, I have never met a locksmith for tent doors for the simple reason that the tents do not have an actual door.

Getting back to the Romanian politicians' declarations, we are, however shocked by the lack of reaction from the society, intellectuals, political parties, government; from people in general towards these declarations. And you will say these are not racist (especially if you use the argument I gave in paragraph one). But we tell you that we have lodged a complaint to the National Council for Combating Discrimination, again and that we request public policies, again, this time from the Social Democrat Party. And we do all these, ladies and gentlemen, because such language is not tolerable or acceptable and it's time we became all aware of this. In the same time, we hope the Romanian Social Democrat party will understand that their doctrine refers exactly to "equality between State citizens", and discrimination is not conceivable in social democracy.

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¹ <http://dexonline.ro/search.php?cuv=tigan> , Sursa: DEX '98