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## PRESS RELEASE

### 8<sup>th</sup> of April – International Roma Day

Yesterday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Romani CRISS, with the support and participation of the Embassy of the United State of America in Bucharest, organised the traditional reception on the occasion of the International Roma Day. On this occasion, His Excellency, Mr. Nicholas F. Taubman, Ambassador of the United States declared: *“International Roma Day presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of the Roma and to recognize the vibrant traditions of Roma culture. But this is also a time to reflect on the challenges that continue to affect the Roma community: discrimination, poverty and lack of adequate access to education and employment.”*

The last evening event was preceded by an extraordinary Amaro Del concert. The idea of celebrating the International Roma Day took the shape of a common project Romani CRISS – Amaro Del by selecting a young Roma percussionist to sing together with Amaro Del in Romania. The young Roma played for the first time with the famous artists from Serbia at the event, in the enthusiastic applause of the public: *„We think it’s better to sing with a future great musician from Romania. Thus we will contribute more actively to maintaining the Romani culture alive and to enrich it”* says Branko, the band’s leader. The decision of the band represents a natural tribute to the cultural environment from which Amaro Del finds artistic inspiration.

Yesterday, the over 100 participants in the reception (Ambassadors, representatives of the Romanian Government, Romanian Parliament, institutions and national and international organisation) enjoyed another Amaro Del concert.

On the same occasion, Romani CRISS celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The event was realised with the financial support of Roma Education Fund, Budapest.

But Bersa Angle!

Cezara David  
Public relations coordinator  
Romani CRISS

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It was established in 1971, with the occasion of the first international Roma meeting in London. This congress, considered the first truly international meeting of Roma, brought a number of successes. The International Romani Union was founded, the Romani flag was accepted and the song “Gelem, Gelem” composed by Jarko Jovanovic was adopted as an anthem. As well, the delegates unanimously declared April 8<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Roma. Roma living in the communist bloc did not celebrate the International Roma Day, and celebrations only began to take place here in the Czech Republic in the end of the 1990s. Recently, the day has received more worldwide recognition. On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Chamber of Deputies adopted, with majority of votes, the project of law regarding the declaration of 8<sup>th</sup> April as the “Day of Roma Minority in Romania”.