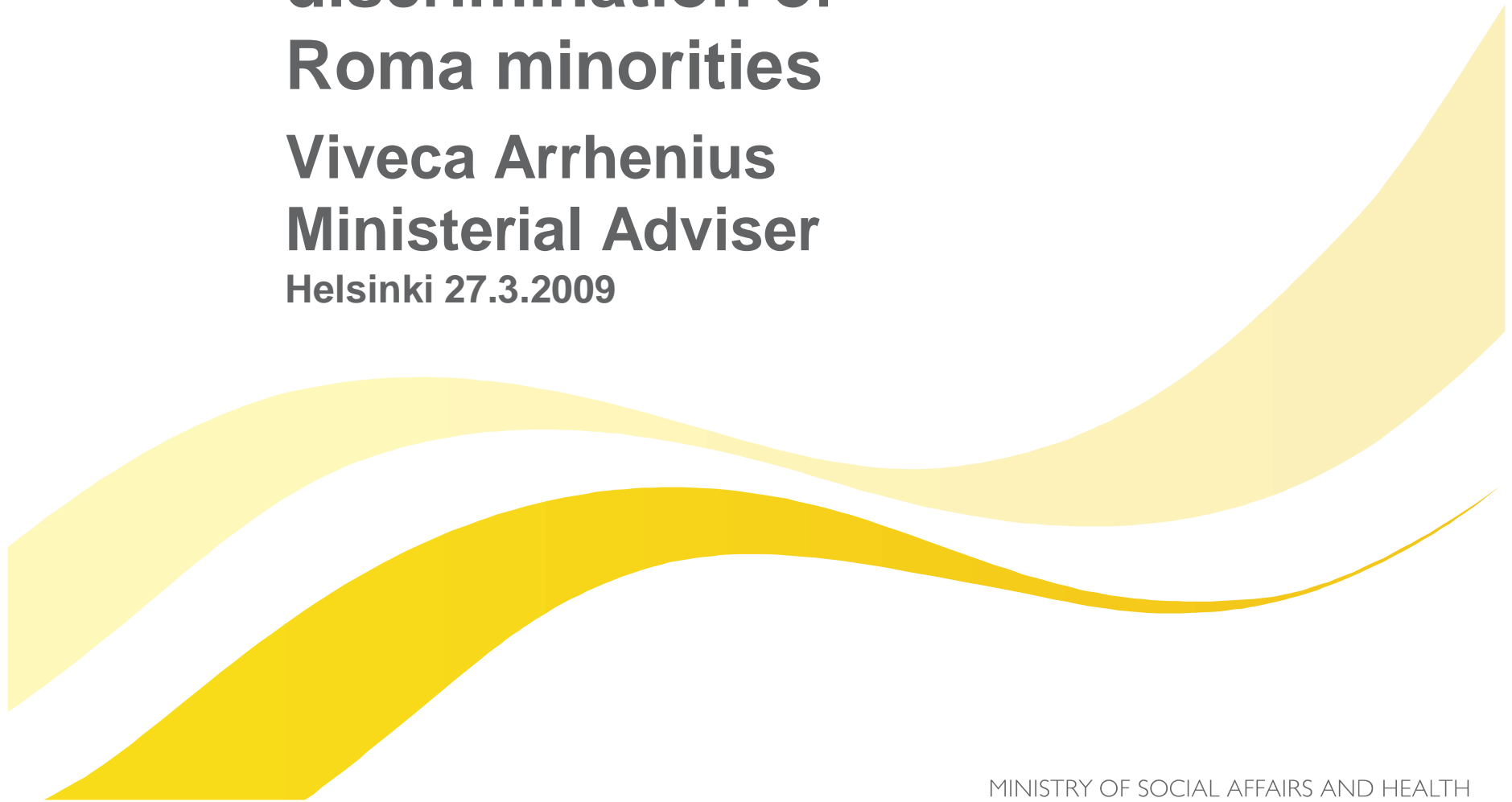


Facing and preventing segregation and discrimination of Roma minorities

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Helsinki 27.3.2009



Background

- **The disadvantaged situation of Roma minorities in many countries for centuries**
- **The Roma form heterogeneous communities**
- **Romani people face poverty, socio-economic problems and discrimination**
- **Roma issues are the responsibility of each State**
- **Roma issues have also a European dimension**

Roma people in Finland

- **According to the Finnish Constitution Romani people have the right to preserve and develop their language and culture**
- **The Roma community is small in Finland; only about 10 000 persons living all over the country**
- **Romani people have full citizens' rights**
- **Roma have a double identity; they are Roma as well as Finns**

Mechanisms for combating discrimination and promoting participation

- **The National Advisory Board on Romani Affairs (1956)**
- **Comprises 18 members, half of which represent Romani NGOs and the other half different ministries**
- **4 regional advisory boards on Romani affairs (2005)**

The tasks of the National Advisory Board on Romani Affairs are to:

- **Monitor Romani people's living conditions and report on problems to authorities**
- **Take initiatives to improve the living conditions of Romani people and to promote their employment**
- **Work for putting an end to discrimination**
- **Participate in international co-operation**

National Policy on Roma

- A working group has been set up by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to prepare the first national Policy on Roma
- The objective of the Policy is equal treatment and non-discrimination of the Roma population
- The programme will include concrete recommendations covering all spheres of life
- The Policy will be launched after June 2009

Concluding remarks

- **A systematic and long-standing approach is needed to combat discrimination**
- **Organisations representing the Roma population must be fully involved from the very beginning**
- **We need mechanisms for dialogue, participation and influencing decision-making at all levels**
- **International co-operation and activities have a growing importance**