



Wednesday 21 March 2018

Launch of the Third Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2018

12.30 - 14.00 (accreditation from 12.00 to 12.30)

European Parliament, Brussels – PHS 1C47

Discussion about the new FEANTSA/Abbé Pierre Foundation Overview of Housing Exclusion and Homelessness in Europe. Launch organised jointly by FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, Abbé Pierre Foundation, and with the support of Sylvie Guillaume, Vice-President of the European Parliament (S&D)

Available translations: French & English

12.30 – 12.45 Introduction

- Introductory remarks by Sylvie Guillaume (MEP S&D, Vice-President of the European Parliament)
- Video testimony: « Behind the statistics », M. Konte's path towards housing

12.45 – 13.20 Key takeaways of the Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2018

- By Chloé Serme-Morin (FEANTSA) & Sarah Coupechoux (Abbé Pierre Foundation)
- Questions/answers with the room

13.20 – 13.50 Discussion: Which levers should we activate or reinforce at the European level to move from managing homelessness and housing exclusion to progressively ending it?

- Moderated by Manuel Domergue (Abbé Pierre Foundation)
- Discussants: Cédric Vanstyvandel (President of Housing Europe – TBC), Jens Schumacher (Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU), Claude Cahn (OHCHR – TBC), Raquel Cortes Herrera (European Commission - DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion).

13.50 – 14.00 Conclusive remarks

- By Freek Spinnewijn (FEANTSA) & Sylvie Guillaume (MEP S&D, vice-president of the European Parliament)

To register, please send your first and last names, birth date, nationality and identity document number before March 12th to chloe.serme-morin@feantsa.org.

Lunch (sandwiches) available during the first hour of presentation. Room capacity: 50 people.

Background

The former editions of this report ([available on FEANTSA's website](#)) sounded the alarm regarding the current rise in housing exclusion and homelessness in Europe. National and European data on housing exclusion show that whilst housing quality is improving around Europe, the continued increase in housing costs is putting more and more pressure on households. The most vulnerable households are those on the front line: housing inequalities have been increasing between 2010 and 2016.

All European energy and efforts need to focus on the *other Europe*, the growing number of people facing homelessness and housing exclusion, the face of which is changing as it includes a larger and larger section of the population. This report is a call to action for local, national and European authorities. It provides a sound basis on which to proceed, introducing policy orientations and pitfalls to be avoided in developing strategies to reduce and ultimately end homelessness. On the one hand, throughout the years, evidence showing the inadequacy and inefficiency of managing homelessness as an emergency has been building up. On the other hand, expertise, skills and experimentation of other approaches have been developing, for instance on prevention and Housing First. This creates scope for the exchange of good practices. Integrated strategies, **moving from managing homelessness to progressively ending it**, have been proved to work, notably in **Finland**. An analysis of the implementation of housing rights in Europe in 2017, included in the report, reveals the growing gap between housing rights as guaranteed by European and international treaties and the reality in local and national contexts.

It's through the mobilisation of a strong legal basis, political will and strategic planning that the objective of ending homelessness and successfully fighting housing exclusion will stop being a fantasy and become a human dignity imperative and proof of the European social project's credibility.