



**European Federation of National Organisations Working With the Homeless
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For Immediate Release**

PRESS RELEASE

Another European Parliament Call for an EU Homelessness Strategy: When Will EU Action Come?

30 MEPs recently signed a statement urging the European Commission to act on the European Parliament's previous calls for an EU Homelessness Strategy. This is the third time in recent years that the European Parliament has called for an EU Homelessness Strategy. While hundreds of homeless people have died in Europe during the recent cold spell, there has been no concrete action from the European Commission. FEANTSA echoes the European Parliament's call for urgent steps to be taken to coordinate policy on homelessness in the EU.

The MEPs call for action, mobilisation and humanity. They demand that all Member State governments meet as a matter of urgency, to make sure that every possible measure has been taken to guarantee the right to emergency accommodation for all rough sleepers; for an emergency fund to be put in place to help Member States that do not have the resources to deal with the critical situation; and for the EU Homelessness Strategy the European Parliament called for in its Resolution of the 14th September 2011 to be put in place without delay.

This Resolution (B7-0475/2011) followed a Declaration (61/2010) calling for an ambitious EU Homelessness Strategy and for support to Member States in their efforts towards ending homelessness. The Declaration urges the European Union and Member States to make concrete progress in the fight against homelessness and supports specific priorities for action.

The European Parliament Declaration 111/2008 on Ending Street Homelessness also calls on Member States to develop winter plans to stop homeless people dying in extreme weather conditions.

While there will always be a need for emergency responses to homelessness, there is a clear urgency, which the European Parliament has reiterated, to move towards strategic policies with a long-term view to ending homelessness. Continuing to "manage" homelessness is neither sustainable nor acceptable in today's Europe.

FEANTSA Director, Freek Spinnewijn, has said "The European Commission has been asked enough times by Europe's elected representatives to create an EU Homelessness Strategy. It no longer has any excuses for not developing a coordinated response to homelessness in Europe."

FEANTSA fully supports the European Parliament's repeated calls for an EU Homelessness Strategy and urges the European Commission to act on the EP's demands.

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Find out more from www.feantsa.org or call 0032 2 538 66 69

Notes for editors:

1. [FEANTSA](http://www.feantsa.org) is the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless. It is an umbrella of not-for-profit organisations which participate in or contribute to the fight against homelessness in Europe. It is the only major European network focusing exclusively on homelessness at European level.
2. Link to the Resolution B7-0475/2011 on an EU Homelessness Strategy:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2011-0475&language=EN>
3. Link to Declaration 61/2010 on an EU Homelessness Strategy:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2010-0499&language=EN>
4. Link to Declaration 111/2008 on Ending Street Homelessness:
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?reference=P6_TA\(2008\)0163&language=EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?reference=P6_TA(2008)0163&language=EN)
5. Various member states have developed national homelessness strategies. See a list of them here:
<http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=1169>

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■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL

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