



FEANTSA



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

PRESS RELEASE

European Homeless Service Provider Network Supports Spanish Organisations' Proposal for National Homelessness Strategy

The Spanish national alliance of homelessness organisations, fePsh, has sent recommendations for creating a national strategy for the prevention and eradication of homelessness to all candidates in the November general elections in Spain. fePsh believe that a homeless strategy should be a fundamental part of the new social policies that all political parties will present before the elections. FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, fully supports this move.

The two frameworks proposed to the political parties are intervention with homeless people and public housing policy. The document has been sent to all Members of Congress and the Parliamentary Groups (Partido Socialista, Partido Popular, Izquierda Unida, Convergència I Unió, Partido Nacionalista Vasco and Grupo Mixto).

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, fully supports this move. Often, responses to homelessness in Europe have been reactive and ad-hoc, seeking to manage the problem rather than to resolve or end it. However, continuing to manage the problem is neither sustainable nor acceptable in today's Europe. Tackling homelessness requires joined-up strategies that have ending homelessness as their goal.

A growing number of policy-makers recognize this and are developing a long-term view and devising national and local strategic approaches that move beyond reactive management of homelessness towards ending it. fePsh also recommends this approach.

FEANTSA believes this is a key way to ensure the goal of ending homelessness can be met. The most successful political and statutory commitments to tackling homelessness identify it as a specific policy area and set concrete steps to combat it. National and local governments having data on who the homeless population are, targets on how and when measures are going to be implemented and planning specific areas to address can make a real difference to the lives of homeless people.

There is support at European level for this type of intervention from national governments: in September 2011, the European Parliament adopted a [Resolution](#) calling for an EU Homelessness Strategy with a specific focus on innovative 'housing-led' approaches, for links to the structural funds and for a framework for monitoring and reporting on the development of national and regional homelessness strategies.

In 2008, the Parliament adopted a [Declaration](#) on Ending Street Homelessness, which calls on the European Council to agree on an EU commitment to end street homelessness by 2015, calls on the European Commission to provide annual updates on progress made in Member States towards ending homelessness and urges Member States to devise "winter emergency plans" as part of wider homelessness strategies. These goals relate to the aspects of homelessness which are best addressed by specific homelessness policies, rather than under other policy areas (such as housing, health or employment). They also relate to visible, reachable and quantifiable target populations; making them realistic and achievable, and would facilitate the creation of evidence-based strategies. In the same vein and with specific reference to European Union support to help Member States create their own strategies, the European Parliament adopted another [Declaration](#) in December 2010 on an EU homelessness strategy, which calls on the European Commission to develop an EU homelessness strategy and to support Member States in developing national strategies.

To be effective, such strategies must be adapted and extended to fit the realities of national and local contexts and backed up by systematic prevention through housing, employment, health, education and other policies. This is why FEANTSA fully supports fePsh in its move to recommend the creation of a national homelessness strategy in Spain to those who can design and implement specific policies that address homelessness and aim to end it.

FEANTSA President, Rina Beers, said, "There is potential to bring about a real reduction in homelessness in Europe. The knowledge exists, the expertise exists. Now governments need to set out clear plans as to how they are going to implement this knowledge and expertise. The time is right as there is support from Europe for introducing such measures. This is why we fully support fePsh in their mission to get the next Spanish government on board and set up a national strategy."

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless AISBL

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fePsh has sent recommendations on what to include in a national homelessness strategy to all candidates, proposing intervention with homeless people and public housing policy as its key elements. All the entities that form fePsh are also members of FEANTSA. FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, fully supports this move.

For more information, contact [Sonia Olea Ferreras](#), fePsh Vice President or Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA Director, on 0032 538 66 69.

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Notes for editors:

1. [FEANTSA](#) 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. fePsh is a federation of organizations that support homeless people across Spain. Its members are Red Acoge, FACIAM, Provivienda, Fundació Arrels, Prohabitatge, Sant Joan de Deu, Solidarios para el Desarrollo, Fundación RAIS, and Caritas Española.
3. FEANTSA has created a [Toolkit for developing an integrated homelessness strategy](#), as well as a [Handbook](#) that draws on examples of approaches from across Europe that are rising to the challenge of ending homelessness.
4. FEANTSA has collected existing homelessness [strategy documents](#) from different countries and regions.
5. In the framework of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, FEANTSA launched a [campaign](#) called 'Ending Homelessness', the central message of which is that homelessness can be ended through the development of integrated homelessness strategies, which address the following goals: 1.No one sleeping rough; 2.No one living in emergency accommodation longer than is an 'emergency'; 3.No one living in transitional accommodation longer than is required for successful move-on; 4.No one leaving an institution without housing options; 5.No young people becoming homeless as a result of the transition to independent living.

For further details, please contact FEANTSA Communications Officer, [Suzannah Young](#)

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