



Brussels, 12 February 2008

Subject: Written declaration on ending street homelessness 0111/2007

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

As you may know, a written declaration on ending street homelessness was registered in December 2007 by MEPs from five of the largest Parliamentary groups. The organisations listed below welcome this initiative and hope that the required number of signatures will be gathered by the lapse date of 26 March 2008.

Despite the fact that every person has a right to a secure, adequate and affordable place to live, street homelessness, which is possibly the most extreme form of poverty and exclusion, continues to affect people in all EU countries. Homelessness has far reaching implications, both at the individual and at the societal level. It is unacceptable that human beings are forced to live on the street due to the lack of adequate policy responses.

In recent years, the EU has started to acknowledge that homelessness and housing exclusion needs to be tackled as a priority. This is a first important step, but we believe that much more can and needs to be done, both at EU and national level.

As European level organisations and networks active in the social sector, we think that each one of us has a role to play and that concerted action of all relevant stakeholders, including people who are homeless themselves, is necessary to end street homelessness. We see the written declaration as an excellent opportunity for the only directly-elected body of the European Union to show once again consensus and political courage for the respect and promotion of fundamental human rights across the EU.

If you signed the declaration already, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and ask you to encourage your colleagues to do the same.

If you have not already done so, we hope that we can count on you to sign the declaration.

■ European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homeless

Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri

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Yours sincerely,



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Catherine Parmentier
Chief Executive Officer, Eurocities



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President, Eurodiaconia



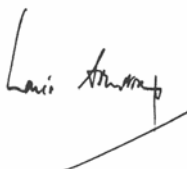
Sven Carlsson
President, IUT



Malgorzata Kmita
President, Mental Health Europe



Don Flynn
Chair, PICUM



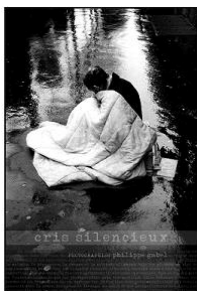
Louis Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer, RICS



Fintan Farrell
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Conny Reuter
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Picture by Philippe Gabel, from the exhibition "Cris silencieux", design and distribution by Zérane S. Girardeau (zerane@gmail.com).

Exhibition to be seen at the European Parliament in Strasbourg during the February plenary.