



Bruxelles, 08 September 2009

**To the attention of Ms. Cecilia Malmström, Minister for EU Affairs of Sweden  
President of the Council of the European Union - General Affairs**

*Re: CECODHAS-EAPN-FEANTSA common letter on the proposal to amend the ERDF regulation as regards the eligibility of housing interventions in favour of marginalised communities*

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you to express our opinion on the proposal of the European Commission to amend the regulation 1080/2006 laying down the rules for the European Regional Development Funds in order to allow housing interventions for marginalised communities in the EU-12.

Not only are the affordability, adequacy and quality of housing major preoccupations for most European citizens, but they are above all vital questions for the most disadvantaged of our fellow citizens – those who face extreme forms of deprivation and marginalisation. Our three organisations work hard to prevent those situations but we know that the situation has worsened over the past few months with the socio-economic effects of the crisis.

To enlarge the scope of action of the European Regional Development Fund in order to improve the living and housing conditions of those marginal groups of society is therefore a major step towards the achievement of a basic requirement of our society.

However we have 3 concerns regarding the current proposal:

- 1. For this proposed measure to be the most effective, we believe it is important to target interventions on those groups who are the most marginalised (Roma people, homeless, etc ...).**
- 2. It is crucial to ensure that the proposed measure strengthens the social infrastructures (including the non-for-profit housing sector) in the concerned Member States in order to ensure long-term solutions to marginalisation trends**
- 3. If this proposal is to improve the situation of marginalised communities, there is no justification to restrict its scope to the EU-12.**

Our three organisations are committed to help the discussions reach a solution that will allow rapid, concrete but also long-lasting results for marginalised communities.

To discuss our contribution to an effective implementation of the proposed measure, we would like to meet you in the following days at your earliest convenience.

We are looking forward to having a fruitful discussion on this crucial issue.

Yours sincerely



Fintan FARRELL  
Director of the European  
Anti-Poverty Network  
(EAPN)



Freek SPINNEWIJN  
Director of the European  
Federation of National  
Organisations working  
with the Homeless  
(FEANTSA)



Claire ROUMET  
Secretary General of the  
European Committee for  
Social Housing  
(CECODHAS)