



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner László Andor
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 31.01.2012

Dear Sirs and Madams,

On behalf of Commissioner Andor, I thank you for your collective letter of 2 December on homelessness. The Commission is aware of the European Parliament of 14 September calling for an EU homelessness strategy. It is also convinced of the need for action to tackle homelessness which is a particularly serious manifestation of social exclusion in many Member States.

The Commission can contribute to tackling homelessness via the use of EU financial instruments. The Progress programme is used to support work on housing-led policies and other innovative approaches, among others launching a study of the links between homelessness and migration. Within the framework of the Progress programme, the Commission supports European NGO networks active in this field and carries out dialogue with the anti-poverty networks. Currently, the European Regional Development Fund provides funding for social housing for marginalised communities, and should continue to do so in the future. The European Social Fund provides support for the social and labour market reintegration of homeless people. Furthermore, the Commission has proposed allowing greater use of the ERDF and the ESF to tackle issues of housing and homelessness as part of its legislative proposals for the next multi-annual financial framework.

Building on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Commission is considering how renewed efforts at European level could add value and encourage Member States to develop and implement national action plans to tackle homelessness in a way as it is mentioned in the 2010 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion. In doing this, the Commission will give due attention to the inputs of all relevant stakeholders, including of your organisations.

I look forward to our continued co-operation on tackling homelessness and housing exclusion.

Yours sincerely,



Anabela GAGO

Cc:

Ms Beers, President, Feantsa
Ms Renoux, EU Delegate, ATD Fourth Forum
Ms Roy, Secretary General, Eurodiaconia
Ms Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild
Ms Parent and Le Voy, Secretary General, AGE Platform
Mr Horemans, President, EAPN
Mr Leonori, President SMES-Europe
Mr Pivot, Director, ENAR
Mr de la Granja, President, Emmaüs Europe
Mr Street, International Secretary for Europe, The Salvation Army
Mr Delmelle, President, EFFB
Mr Prop, Director, Red Cross

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