

THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON TACKLING HOMELESSNESS AT LOCAL LEVEL

Thursday 28 May 2009, Committee of the Regions, Brussels
DRAFT PROGRAMME

Moderator: Hannu Puttonen, President of FEANTSA

9.30 Introductory session: EU ambitions on homelessness

Linetta Serri, Elected member of the Committee of the Regions
Olga Trostiansky, Deputy Mayor of Paris
Jérôme Vignon, Director for Social Protection and Social Inclusion European Commission

9.45-11.30 Session 1: Impact on profiles of homeless people

-Recent survey findings showing growing numbers of repossessions in the UK and increasing vulnerability to homelessness
Leslie Morphy, Chief Executive, Crisis UK

- Growing population of immigrant workers in Spain becoming homeless
Dr. Miguel Angel Navarro, Sociologist, Spanish Commission for Assistance to Refugees
Sonia Olea Ferreras, Head of Homeless programme in Caritas Spain

-Increase of homeless migrants with EU citizenship in the Paris region – measures taken
Philippe Coste, Director of health and social affairs of the Paris Region, France

Discussion

11.30-11.45 Coffee

11.45-13.00 Session 2: Impact on local budgets

- Homelessness budgets in a time of economic crisis - making the best of what we have
Cathal Morgan, Director of Dublin Homeless Agency, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland

-The consequences of budgetary cuts in North Rhine-Westphalia
Michael Schleicher, Head of housing department, Municipality of Cologne, Germany

-Key elements in drawing up an effective budget for a local homeless strategy
Dick Reinking, Senior Policy Advisor, Municipality of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Discussion

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.30 Session 3: Impact on local strategies

- Impact of the crisis on local homeless policy in Gdynia – how to keep a long-term strategy.
Jarek Jozefczyk, Vice-Director of Social Welfare, Municipality of Gdynia, Poland

-Changing strategies - getting better quality and more services from a limited budget in Scotland, UK
Mairi Keddie, Planning, Partnerships and Commissioning Manager, Edinburgh City Council
Pam Orchard, Assistant Director at Edinburgh Cyrenians

Discussion

16.30 Seminar conclusions followed by a drinks reception in the Committee of the Regions