



FEANTSA



European Federation of National Organisations Working With the Homeless
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FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless 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 that focuses exclusively on homelessness at the European level.

Today, in the framework of the [European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion](#), FEANTSA launches a European campaign called '[Ending Homelessness](#)'. The message of the campaign is that ending homelessness in Europe is both necessary and possible. Managing the problem of homelessness is not enough. It is time to stop investing in reactive, short-term measures and to implement integrated strategies to end homelessness.

The 'Ending Homelessness' campaign sets out five concrete goals to end homelessness, arguing that if these goals become part of integrated strategies to combat homelessness, it can be ended. The goals are:

- No one sleeping rough
- No one living in emergency accommodation for longer than is an 'emergency'
- No one living in transitional accommodation longer than is required for successful move-on
- No one leaving an institution without housing options
- No young people becoming homeless as a result of the transition to independent living

As part of the campaign, FEANTSA is also launching the publication *Ending Homelessness: A Handbook for Policy Makers*. The handbook draws together concrete examples of effective approaches to ending homelessness that have already been developed. It demonstrates that a number of Member States are already making significant progress on ending homelessness.

Today's launch is being marked with an event at the European Parliament in Brussels called 'Ending homelessness is possible! How can the EU effectively contribute to the fight against homelessness?' The event will involve a hearing and opportunities for debate on the role of the EU in ending homelessness, followed by the opening of a sculpture exhibition on homelessness by the Danish artist Jens Galschiøt. Speakers include László Andor, Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; Liz Lynne MEP; Britta Thomsen MEP; Karima Delli MEP; Ilda Figueiredo MEP; Jacek Protasiewicz MEP; Philippe Courard, Belgian Secretary of State for Social Integration and the Fight against Poverty; Eric Marlier, International Senior Advisor CEPS/INSTEAD and René Kneip, FEANTSA President.

In the framework of the campaign, FEANTSA's members are also organising a range of campaign activities in different member states throughout the year.

Tackling homelessness is a priority in the EU strategy for social inclusion and social protection, and the launch of FEANTSA's the campaign comes at a key moment. [The 2010 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion](#) actually calls on Member States to develop integrated strategies to tackle homelessness. At the end of 2009, the EU Network of independent experts on social inclusion produced a [report on homelessness and housing exclusion in the EU Member States](#), providing concrete recommendations on the way forward. The European Parliament has also taken a number of important initiatives on homelessness, including a [Written Declaration on Ending Street Homelessness](#) adopted in 2008. The Declaration calls on the Council to agree on an EU-wide commitment to end street homelessness by 2015, calls on the Commission to provide annual updates on action taken and progress made in EU Member States towards ending homelessness and urges Member States to devise "winter emergency plans" as part of wider homelessness strategies.

2010 is also the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The key objectives of the year are to raise public awareness and renew the political commitment of the EU and its Member States to combating poverty and social exclusion. It is thus a potential turning point for policy progress on homelessness and related issues – a unique opportunity for EU level action to facilitate effective policies to end homelessness.

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