



FEANTSA

European Federation of National Organisations Working With the Homeless Press Release – 20th November 2012 For Immediate Release

Homeless People Die in Winter: Time for an EU Homelessness Strategy

It is getting colder all over Europe and reports of homeless people freezing to death have already come from several Member States. Many EU institutions have called for a European homelessness strategy. Faced with the reality of these deaths, FEANTSA asks the European Commission what progress it has made on these calls for a strategy to combat homelessness.

With the onset of winter, deaths of homeless people have already been reported in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Poland and are likely to have happened in other countries.

The call from the European Parliament (Resolution B7-0475/2011), asking the European Commission to support member states to avoid winter deaths and help them to address homelessness more effectively through a European homelessness strategy, is now more than a year old.

The call has been reiterated by a number of European Union (EU) institutions and actors, namely the Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, the EPSCO Council and the S&D Group in the European Parliament. The European Parliament itself made two other calls on the Commission relating to homelessness and a homelessness strategy (Declarations 61/2010 and 111/2008). Leading MEPs from all political groups signed a joint letter in February 2012 calling on the Commission and the European Council for action to be taken immediately to avoid winter deaths amongst homeless people.

We are at the dawn of a new winter. Homeless people are dying because of a lack of solutions.

FEANTSA asks the European Commission whether it is heeding the calls on it and whether it has made any progress towards the implementation of an EU homelessness strategy.

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For comments, please contact Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA Director freek.spinnewijn@feantsa.org

Notes for editors:

1. FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless. It 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 focusing exclusively on homelessness at European level. www.feantsa.org
2. Link to Resolution B7-0475/2011 on an EU Homelessness Strategy: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2011-0475&language=EN>
3. Link to Declaration 61/2010 on an EU Homelessness Strategy: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2010-0499&language=EN>
4. Link to Declaration 111/2008 on Ending Street Homelessness: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?reference=P6_TA\(2008\)0163&language=EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?reference=P6_TA(2008)0163&language=EN)
5. Joint Letter <http://logement.blogs.liberation.fr/serafini/2012/02/silence-glacial-des-responsables-europ%C3%A9ens-appel-pour-une-strat%C3%A9gie-de-lue-pour-les-personnes-sans-abris-depuis-une-s.html>
6. Committee of the Regions <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:015:0041:0045:EN:PDF>
7. EESC <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.soc-opinions.14931>
8. EPSCO council conclusions http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/131109.pdf
9. S&D Group <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2012-350&language=EN>
10. Various member states have developed national homelessness strategies. See a list of them here: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=1169>

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