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**Press Release**  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Council of Europe Declares FEANTSA Collective Complaint Against the Czech Republic Admissible**

On 18 December 2020, the European Committee on Social Rights, which monitors compliance with the human rights enshrined in the European Social Charter, declared the Collective Complaint against the Czech Republic admissible.

### **The Complaint**

In February 2020, FEANTSA lodged a Collective Complaint against the Czech Republic for failure to respect the right of the family to social, legal and economic protection, which includes the right to housing, as part of its obligations under the 1961 European Social Charter. The European Committee on Social Right's decision about admissibility is a clear sign that there are reasons for concern.

FEANTSA's complaint concerns five main points:

- Ongoing threats to security of tenure and risk of eviction for poor households, in particular from the Roma minority.
- Disproportionate reductions in housing supplements provided in the face of a manifest continuing need.
- Designation of some territorial areas as ineligible for certain forms of housing benefit.
- Intensification of social and racial discrimination, including racial segregation.
- Social control measures that have a negative impact on the effective exercise of housing rights, in particular the local residence permit requirements to which certain categories of persons do not have access.

### **What happens now?**

The Czech government will now be notified that the Collective Complaint has been declared admissible and will have until 26 February 2021 to submit comments on the merits of the complaint. FEANTSA will then have an opportunity to respond to the comments made by the Czech government.

Following these submissions in the winter 2021-22, the European Committee on Social Rights will examine the complaint again and make a decision on the merits. FEANTSA may have an opportunity to present its concerns at a hearing in Strasbourg.

Kjell Larson, FEANTSA president said, "We welcome the decision by European Committee on Social Rights and look forward to the next steps in this process, and of course, to any changes that the Czech government is planning to make in order to address the concerns raised in the complaint."

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For more details or comments, please contact Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA Director  
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**Notes for Editors:**

1. FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless. It is the only European NGO focusing exclusively on homelessness at European level.
2. All of the documents pertaining to the collective case are available [here](#).
3. Housing Rights Watch, European network for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of the right to housing.