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9th EU MEETING OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY

25 JUNE (EU Parliament)
& 26 JUNE 2010 (Charlemagne)

Brussels



Supported by the European Commission and the Spanish Presidency of the EU
Organised with the assistance of The European Anti-Poverty Network EAPN





PROGRAMME

Venue: EU Parliament, Access: Altiero Spinelli – Place du Luxembourg

FRIDAY JUNE 25

- 08.30 – 09.00 Registration at the EU Parliament
- 09.00 – 09.45 **Opening session - Room Jozsef ANTALL 2Q2**
- Mr. José Manuel **FRESNO**, Chair, Independent Expert and President of the Spanish Council for the Equal Treatment and No Discrimination of persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin
 - Mr. Jerzy **BUZEK**, President of the European Parliament, invited
 - Mr. Lazlo **ANDOR**, EU Commission, Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
 - Mrs. Trinidad **JIMENEZ** Minister for Health and Social Policies, Spanish EU Presidency
 - Mrs. Adelia **FERNANDES**, Representative of the 8th EU Meeting
- 09.45 – 10.15 **Follow up of the key demands from the 8th EU Meeting 2009**
Mrs. Antonia **CARPARELLI**, EU Commission - Head of Unit, Inclusion, Social Policy Aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies,
- Study on the impact of EU meetings – Initial findings**
- Mrs. Danielle **DIERCKX**, OASeS - Centre on Inequality, Poverty, Social Exclusion and the City, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- 10.15 – 10.45 **Reactions to the opening session & to the two presentations**
From the delegates and from Mrs. Pervenche **BERES**, EU Parliament, President of the Commission for Employment and Social Affairs
- 10.45 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.30 **8 workshops**
JAN 2Q2 & SPINELLI A1E-3, A5E-1, A5G-1, A1H-1, A3H-1, A1G-1, A5E-3
Members of the EU Parliament react to the opening session and to the 2 presentations
Dialogue with delegates
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch – Deputies Restaurant
- 14.00 – 16.00 **8 workshops**
Delegations present and discuss “10 Years Action Plans”
- 16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break (in the Workshops Rooms)
- 16.30 – 18.00 **8 workshops**
Delegations present and discuss “10 Years Action Plans”
Choice of 1 or 2 priorities in each workshop
- 20.30 Conference dinner





SATURDAY JUNE 26

Venue: Charlemagne, rue de la loi - Boulevard Charlemagne

- 08.30 – 09.00 Registration at the Charlemagne
- 09.00 – 10.00 Meeting by national delegation
- 10.00 – 10.30 Coffee break
- 10.30 – 11.00 **Results of the workshops** in brief presented by Mrs. Danielle **DIERCKX**, University of Antwerp.

16 Priorities for the next 10 years presented on cubes

- 11.00 – 12.30 **Panel**
- Mr. Robert **VERRUE**, EU Commission, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
 - Mr. Juan **MATO**, General Director Social Policies, Family and Child, Ministry for Health and Social Policy TBC
 - Mr. Aurelio **FERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ**, President of the Social Protection Committee
 - Mr. Ludo **HOREMANS**, President of EAPN

Reactions of the Panel

Open debate

- 12.30 – 13.00 **Closing session**
- Mr. Robert **VERRUE**, EU Commission, Director-General, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
 - Mr. Francisco **MOZA ZAPATERO**, General Secretary for Social Policy and Consumption, Spanish EU Presidency
 - Mr. Philippe **COURARD**, Secretary of State for Social Integration and Combating Poverty, Belgian EU Presidency
 - Representative of the Hungarian EU Presidency

- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

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The European Meetings – The Story do far

Gradually since 2001, the EU meetings of people experiencing poverty bringing together delegates from all over Europe have become one of the major events in the EU social agenda.

The specificity of these EU Meetings is the fact that the Presidency of the EU gives the opportunity to people experiencing poverty to invite decision makers and political representatives to exchange on the social and economic policies and on the impact these policies have on their daily life. This makes that EU Meetings of people experiencing poverty a particularly empowering experience. The meetings are also a moment where the diversity of the realities of poverty and social exclusion appear in a kind of picture, where the forms and the colours are reflecting the difficulties and the progress in the fight against poverty.

Previous EU Meetings have tackled themes such as: housing, health, income, good participatory practices, the image and perception of poverty, social services and services of general interest, adequate minimum income and financial inclusion. The meetings clearly demonstrated the expertise and the abilities of people experiencing poverty to analyse their own life as well as the social policies and to propose tracks for action.

The **demands coming from the 2009 Meeting** focused on the necessity:

- For Europe to be more accountable and make more visible the key actions taken to ensure follow up of the proposals and recommendations made at the European Meetings.
- To show how the measures taken to address the financial and economic crisis will prevent people who live in poverty from being "collateral damage" from how the crisis is managed.
- To demonstrate how the fight against poverty has been mainstreamed in policies such as rural policies, transport or internal market policies and to show how the eradication of poverty is a high priority of the EU agenda.
- To show what concrete steps have been taken to defend the right to housing and to address Homelessness and also to pay particular attention to what is happening to Roma and Migrant communities living in very vulnerable conditions and facing evictions on the policies which follow up.
- To show what steps have been taken to ensure greater access to information about peoples rights and how to access the services available and how user's views are taken account of in the delivery of these essential services.
- To evaluate the impact of the liberalisation and privatisation of services of general interest, including social services, on the quality, accessibility and affordability of the services.
- To show what measures have been taken to ensure the financial inclusion of people experiencing poverty in areas such as debt advice, access to bank accounts, financial education...
- To show what measures have been taken to ensure that people have access to adequate and accessible Minimum Income schemes in all the EU Member States.
- To support people experiencing poverty and their organisations to participate in implementing

Anti poverty policies and to ensure their active participation in the 2010 EU Year against poverty and social exclusion.

Focus of the 9th EU Meeting of people experiencing poverty

The 9th EU meeting will have three main parts. Firstly the initial findings of a research on the impact of EU Meetings will be presented and discussed. Secondly there will be an exchange between the delegates and the members of the European Parliament. Thirdly the delegations of people experiencing poverty will discuss and present their 10 years Action Plans for fighting against poverty. They will do this by reflecting on the proposals which have come from previous meetings. It is hoped that the ideas that emerged from this exercise can be taken up in the final declaration from the 2010 European Year for Combating poverty and social exclusion.

