



## DIARY NOTE

## The Fight against poverty in the EU takes centre stage at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

**On June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2010, delegations representing people experiencing poverty and policy makers will meet in Brussels on the occasion of the annual Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty. This year's event, the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive edition, is called "Starting point for a new deal" and is co-organised by the European Commission, the Spanish EU Presidency and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).**

The purpose of this annual meeting is to give to persons who are living in poverty and/or experiencing social exclusion, the chance to voice their concerns and aspirations and to engage in a direct dialogue with representatives from national governments, EU institutions, poverty NGOs and social issues interest groups. The unique format of the meeting is designed to extend a two-way communication and open new forms of dialogue. Delegations will represent all 27 Member States, and decision-makers will comprise those focusing on fighting against poverty and social exclusion at the national and EU levels. The actual testimonials from people experiencing poverty are expected to provide decision-makers with an exceptional opportunity to better appreciate current conditions and national differences.

This year's meeting will focus on identifying the priorities and on setting the agenda for a 10 Year Action Plan to eliminate poverty across the EU member states. Participants will discuss how to raise awareness about poverty within the member states and to help shape proposals to solve problems in the areas of financial inclusion, housing, the provision of services, participation in society and employment. This year's meeting also has a particular significance as it corresponds to the EU awareness campaign for the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

### Poverty and social exclusion are increasing within the EU

Within the EU, 84 million people, approximately 16% of the European population, live below the poverty threshold. Without social transfers 25% of all EU citizens would be at risk of poverty. Despite economic and employment growth over the past ten years, the objective of the Lisbon strategy to contribute in reducing poverty in the EU by 2010 hasn't been met.

The worst recession in decades has compounded the problem of financial hardship for citizens in the EU. In December 2009 unemployment across the EU reached 9.6% and is predicted to rise to 10.2% by the end of 2010. Child poverty is a particularly serious concern as 19 million children are affected by the daily experience of poverty and social exclusion. The current trio of EU Presidencies, (Spain, Belgium and Hungary), have highlighted the urgency of ending child poverty and breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

### Event preview and programme

In addition to the participants who are first hand witnesses of poverty, delegates will also include representatives of national governments, European Parliament, the European Commission and NGOs. VIPs include Lazlo Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Trinidad Jiménez Garcia-Herrera, Spanish Minister for Health and Social Policy, Philippe Courard, Belgian State Secretary for Social Integration and the Fight Against Poverty, Pervenche Berès, Chair of the European Parliament's Employment Committee, Robert Verrue, Director General in DG EMPL, Fintan Farrell, Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).



The cornerstone of the event will be the discussions among all participants that will take place in the workshops. The highlight (on the second day) will be a presentation of 16 priorities for the next 10 years which will be communicated through messages displayed on large building blocks. In addition, throughout the event, delegations will be able to present their visuals and communication materials including publications, posters and DVDs.

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| <b>Thursday, 24 June 2010</b> |   |
| 19h00(TBC)                    | Press welcome   |
| <b>Friday, 25 June 2010</b>   | <b>EU Parliament</b>  |
| 09h00 – 09h30                 | Opening session   |
| 09h30 – 10h00                 | Presentations – Follow-up of the 8 <sup>th</sup> EU Meeting 2009, Study Results on impact of EU meetings      |
| 10h00 – 10h45                 | Feedback from the delegates   |
| 11h15 – 12h30                 | 8 Workshops – EU MEPs react to the opening session, Dialogue with delegates                                   |
| 14h00 – 16h00                 | 8 Workshops – Delegations present and discussion 10 Year Action Plans   |
| 16h30 – 18h00                 | 8 Workshops – Delegations present and discuss 10 Year Action Plans, Choice of 1-2 priorities in each workshop |
| 20h30                         | Conference dinner   |
| <b>Saturday, 26 June 2010</b> | <b>European Commission, Charlemagne building</b>  |
| 09h00 - 10h00                 | Meeting with national delegations   |
| 10h30 – 11h00                 | Presentation of results of workshop, 16 Priorities presented on cubes   |
| 11h00 – 12h30                 | Panel – Reactions of the panel and Open debate  |
| 12h30 - 13h00                 | Closing session   |

**Pan-European Media information:**

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