

Statement by the Committee on Health and Welfare 2012/13:SoU8

Annex 2

Reasoned opinion of the Riksdag

The Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (COM(2012) 617), as presented in the statement by the Committee on Health and Welfare (2012/13:SoU8), has been examined by the Riksdag on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity. While the Riksdag has initially noted that the EU has a significant role in promoting cooperation between member states in order to combat poverty and social exclusion, it puts into question whether the overall purpose of the proposed fund, which is to contribute to reaching the goal of the Europe 2020 strategy to promote social participation primarily by means of reducing poverty, can be achieved in this way. The proposed fund is to support national systems in which food products and basic consumer products for personal use are distributed to those who are most deprived. The Riksdag considers that poverty and social exclusion can best be counteracted by promoting work that enables self-support and by developing social security systems that include the whole population. The Riksdag further considers that direct social support measures should be the responsibility of each member state and that it is most effective when support to those living in a vulnerable situation is designed and provided by the member states themselves. The Riksdag therefore considers that the proposal is not compliant with the principle of subsidiarity.