

People experiencing poverty give RED CARD to EU Leaders

11th EU Meeting of People experiencing poverty on homelessness and housing rights

Brussels, 10 May 2012 – delegates at the 11th European Meeting of People experiencing poverty showed a red card to EU leaders to protest against current EU austerity measures in response to the crisis at the Opening session of the Meeting. A group of them left the Meeting at noon to protest in front of the European Council, calling for a right to housing, measures to put an end to homelessness, and economic and social policies that reverse the growing inequalities in Europe.

Delegates of the 11th European Meeting of People experiencing poverty, dedicated this year to homelessness and housing rights, opened the event by addressing a red card to EU leaders as one of the delegates read a joint statement to all participants:

“We feel that EU leaders have lost sight of the objectives for which the European Union was born 60 years ago: objectives that included respect for rights, widespread material and social wellbeing, solidarity and cooperation”.

“We call on you to follow up your many fine words with action. The policies now being used to combat the economic and financial crisis are only creating more poverty and social exclusion. You must take this message to heart and act accordingly: Europe’s future depends on it!”

We don’t want the moon, only a house and you to deliver on your commitments!

The delegates also announced that a group of them would leave the meeting at noon to make a protest action in front of the European Council building.

“You have failed in taking seriously the commitments you made when you agreed the EU poverty reduction target”, “We need a roof over our head”, “we want to live a dignified life”, “save people, not banks”, “we claim our future, we claim our dignity, we claim our rights” were amongst the messages delivered in front of the European Council to EU Prime Ministers and Presidents.

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- **The action during the EU Meeting can be viewed at:** <http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/eutv/portal/index.html>
- **A video of the protest action can be found at:** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH71bDQ8_rw&feature=youtu.be