



Brussels, 10 July 2009

Reference: Debates and Proposals for Post 2010

To: President Barroso.

Dear President Barroso,

On the 14-16th of July the new Parliament will hold its first debates with all new MEPs. On the 15th of July, you will present the Commission's work programme and strategic priorities for the next period. This will be a crucial moment when you launch your vision for the EU post 2010, setting out how the EU can best respond to the current social, economic and environmental challenges, including through a revised post 2010 EU Strategy. EAPN will be eagerly awaiting this presentation to see how far this vision will give clear priority to the social dimension and produce a convincing programme for establishing an EU which builds trust.

For the members of EAPN, the EU clearly stands at a crossroads. The EU can choose the path of "business as usual", insisting that the EU is on the right track, and that only minor changes are needed to ensure a more effective impact. Or the EU can rise to the challenge, to recognize that the current strategy has not managed to address the 16% of the EU population facing poverty (79 million people) or to stem the tide of growing inequalities with all the devastating impact these high levels of inequality have on our societies. The Commission needs to show clearly that it recognises these realities and can take a lead in an effective response. Doing this will help to build trust in the EU and respond to democratic deficit and credibility gap highlighted by the recent European Parliamentary elections and the referendums on the Lisbon Treaty. It could respond to the urgent call for more open debate and participative governance and a new vision for the EU which is capable of channelling the aspirations of ordinary people. It would reassure us that the Commission is committed to more than just short-term economic and market responses to the crisis, but taking long-term steps to correct the failings of the past and deliver a social and sustainable future which puts people and planet before profits.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to set out in the Parliament how the EU can deliver on some of these concerns: to highlight how it will deliver on its promise 'to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty' and to combat social exclusion and growing inequalities so as to address the current crisis and lay the foundations for a society less prone to such crisis. We hope that you on behalf of the Commission will show how the current Lisbon Strategy will be adapted and the EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategy given teeth to deliver greater social cohesion. We hope you will outline how the Commission will establish a convincing pathway to embed a more participative, democratic governance model committed to delivering a social and sustainable EU.

We take this opportunity to attach the **EAPN proposals for post 2010 for building an EU we can trust** developed together with our members across the EU. This "shadow strategy" sets out our vision, a draft strategy and key measures to deliver social progress and help to move the EU towards an effective social and sustainable post 2010 strategy.

We provide a summary of our key proposals below.

EAPN Proposals: A new vision: AN EU WE CAN TRUST:

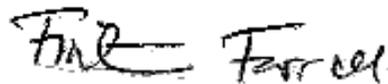
- to put people and planet, before profit.
 - to put the economy at the service of social and sustainable development.
 - to recognize the fight against poverty, inequality and social exclusion and the defense of fundamental rights, as a priority challenge and pre-requisite for progress (at EU and global level).
- 1. A new social and sustainable post 2010 EU strategy which makes progress on poverty and inequality a pre-requisite.**
- Make the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Millennium Development Goals and the reduction of the poverty and inequality (in the EU and globally), a pre-requisite for progress post 2010.
 - Establish new overarching objectives prioritizing social cohesion and the defense of fundamental rights, delivered through a balanced architecture (economic, employment, environmental and social), which strengthens and reinforces the role of the EU Social Protection (pensions, health and long-term care) and Social Inclusion Strategies.
 - Develop more effective tools to ensure implementation, including EU and national targets on poverty and exclusion, homelessness etc, new multiple indicators to measure progress beyond GDP, and effective use of EU Budgets including Structural Funds to deliver social inclusion.
 - Make a commitment to avoid any sort of *social dumping* in order to gain competitiveness in the global economy. Labour rights social welfare standards and progressive taxation systems should be protected and extended.
- 2. A Social Pact – Delivering on Rights and Solidarity which:**
- Challenge the causes of poverty by reducing inequality and achieving a fairer share of wealth.
 - Transform social protection into a springboard: Guaranteeing adequate income, universal social security systems and access to quality social services.
 - Create a pathway to inclusion: Making an integrated Active Inclusion approach a reality.
 - Defend quality employment and creates new jobs for new needs: Investing in quality social/green jobs and social economy.
 - Challenge discrimination and promotes diversity.
 - Promote global social justice and equity.
- 3. Building a dynamic partnership for change**
- Implementing participative and effective governance involving people experiencing poverty and NGOs, at all levels and stages of the EU policy cycle, through an effective civil dialogue.
 - Ensure financial and other support to NGO's, guaranteeing their independence as key agents facilitating the empowerment of people experiencing poverty, and as service providers.

We hope you will read our proposals with interest and consider our key messages in your coming presentation. We always welcome any opportunity to enter into dialogue on any of these questions.

Yours faithfully,



Ludo Horemans
President



Fintan Farrell
Director