

EAPN Policy Briefing # 28

February 2010 UPDATE

Foreword

Dear EAPN members,

Welcome to 2010, the EU year for combating poverty and social exclusion! EAPN has an active year ahead – trying to make the most of the EU year at national and EU level, and to drive forward progress in the fight against poverty. We hope by the end of 2010 we are able to say that the year has made a difference for people in poverty and holds out some better hope for the future!.

To mark the start of the year, the policy briefing has a new look – highlighting only the most recent policy developments at EU level and by EAPN. This will be complemented by Policy Background Notes, available in the members' room. (See note below)

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As the policy briefing goes out, the decisions over EU2020 are coming to a crucial stage with the Commission's review of the Lisbon Strategy, overview of the consultation responses and Informal European Council held on the 11th February. The full draft package should be published by the Commission on 3rd March. EAPN has been very active at EU and national level, with strong support from networks in lobbying for a positive outcome. Some impact can already be seen in the inclusion of a new pillar in the proposals on EU 2020 – as part of building an inclusive, high-employment society – making fighting poverty a new key priority with a possible EU flagship programme (EU Action against poverty).

We look forward to seeing many of you in Dublin!

Best regards

Sian Jones, Policy Coordinator with the Policy Team: Fintan Farrell, Amana Ferro, Vincent Caron, Claire Champeix and Pauline Geoghegan.

Note:

Policy Briefings/Updates give EAPN members the latest information on policy developments and EAPN Actions on each area of EAPN Policy Work. This tool is aimed at making it easier to follow and get involved in our common work.

Please pay specific attention to the items introduced by the following symbol



which means that you are expected to take action.

Policy Briefings/Updates are complemented by **Policy Background Notes** presenting for each of the policy areas of EAPN concern key information on the context and key documents. **You can access these on EAPN website members' room (password: 1515)**

All EAPN documents, reports, position papers can be accessed on the EAPN website www.eapn.eu Publications section. Information on each area of EAPN Working Groups is also available in EAPN Members' Room.

This tool is meant to make it easy for members to engage in EAPN policy work. For any comment or suggestion of improvement, please contact Sian Jones at sian.jones@eapn.eu or by telephone on 00 32 226 5859

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1. 2010 EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

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EAPN group in charge: EXCO

EU Policy developments

Latest developments

■ **02/2010 A declaration on the outcomes for 2010** is being prepared by the Belgian presidency: first information indicates that the declaration is likely to refer to the respect of and visibility of obligations of international commitments (UN, CoE...), and to focus on three specific issues: adequate incomes, child poverty and homelessness. Next steps for the declaration are that it will be discussed by the Social Protection Committee, then go to CoReper and to the Informal Council of ministers, to the European Year closing event on December 15th and be taken up in the outcomes of the EU Council on December 16th.

■ **January 21st 2010 Opening event** of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Madrid. The President of the Spanish Government José Luis Zapatero and a number of senior Spanish Government Ministers as well as the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and high level interest from the Spanish media, contributed to building a strong momentum for the 2010 year. The round table of people experiencing poverty was particularly successful. More information about the Opening [here](#). The Spanish presidency has promised conclusions from the event shortly.

■ The Commission's European Year **2010 website** (www.2010againstopoverty.eu) is now available in 23 languages

■ **The European Parliament** also plans a declaration to be delivered during a plenary Séance Solonelle in Strasbourg in October.

Coming up

■ **February 22nd 2010**: third meeting of the **EU Stakeholders expert group** set up for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, in Brussels (involving 80 participants from NGOs, social partners, foundations, international organisations, local and regional authorities and think-tanks.).

■ **May 24-30 European Year Spring media week**: media organisations across the European Union will devote time and space to promoting debate and raising awareness about poverty and social exclusion.

■ **June 25-26: annual European Meeting of People experiencing Poverty** under the Spanish presidency, in the European Parliament in Brussels, with the close cooperation of EAPN (see below).

■ **October 11-17 European Year [Autumn media week](#)**: many European Year activities will be organised during and close to this week: the Human Ring around Brussels institutions and at national level on **October 12th**, the International Day for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion will be marked across Europe on **October 17th**, the European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion under the Belgian presidency on **October 18-19** in Brussels.

■ **December 15th 2010** (or close to) **Closing event of the European Year** to be held in Brussels.

EAPN Activities

Latest EAPN Activities


■ **On January 19th** on the eve of the official launch event for the European year, a **press conference** to launch the [shared messages for 2010](#) agreed by the members of the 2010 coalition of over 40 European NGOs coordinated by EAPN, was attended by members of EAPN Belgium as well as many of the European organisations who are members of EAPN.


■ EAPN has produced a shortened version of the [EAPN demands for 2010](#), based on the EU We Can Trust


■ **EAPN publications** during the Year are described elsewhere in this briefing.

Coming up

■ **February 19th** EAPN seminar [Building social Europe: from crisis to opportunity](#) in Dublin: to progress the EAPN vision for the legacy of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, in the context of the EU's priorities for the next decade: see further below.

■  **Throughout the year:** Use the NGO coalition website www.endpoverty.eu to share your activities during the year, and find out how you can join in activities organised by other NGOs.

■  **Throughout the year: promote the [EAPN demands](#) and the [shared demands of the coalition](#).** EAPN members can use the presentations about the Year prepared by the Secretariat.

■  **Throughout the Year: [National Focus Weeks](#) across Europe** have been designated in EU Member States (plus Iceland and Norway) during which the spotlight will be on their country. NGOs are aiming to create a **symbolic transfer between National Focus Weeks** by a person/s relaying the

shared NGO messages for the year from one Focus Week to the next in a large format with the possibility of gathering signatures from each country in turn. You are invited to '[get on your bicycle](#)' (literally or otherwise!) and to greet the guest/s from the previous national Focus Week at the point of their arrival in your country and accompany them to the point where they will meet some local dignitaries and media.

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **May 24-30 [European Spring media week](#):** (see above) NGOs to work with media organisations across the European Union to promote debate and raise awareness about poverty and social exclusion.

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **September 23-24 EAPN Seminar on Minimum Income** with the Belgian Presidency (further described below)

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **October 11-17 European [Autumn media week](#):** On October 12th in towns and cities all over Europe events small and large will be organised at relevant locations to give thousands of people the chance to engage in this action. Details of events near you will be advertised locally and/or will be available on the website www.endpoverty.eu. The aim is to obtain a strong declaration by Heads of State in December to affirm the European Union's commitment to undertake measures to combat poverty and social exclusion across all policy fields.

2. OMC ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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EU Policy developments

Latest developments

■ **February 12th 2010:** The Commission held a working seminar as part of the study being carried out on [Stakeholders Involvement in the OMC](#). The study aims to summarize the developments on stakeholder involvement through national independent expert reports and develop proposals on criteria and principles, as the basis for guidelines and benchmarking.

■ **February 11th 2010: the Draft Joint Report** on Social Protection and Social Inclusion was adopted by the SPC. Its Key Messages focussed on the social impact of the crisis and highlighted the positive role of social protection systems as automatic stabilisers, limiting the impact of the crisis, and the need to strengthen gaps in safety nets. Active Inclusion is underlined as the key strategy to reconcile the goals of "fighting poverty, increasing labour market participation

and enhancing the efficiency of social spending". The JRSPSI 2010 will be published shortly on the website.

■ **January 14th 2010, the [2010 Work Programme of the Social Protection Committee](#) was adopted by the SPC**

This focuses on the implications of EU2020 on the Social OMC and the Crisis, with some key follow up on important policy areas –like the EU Year, Child Poverty, Homelessness and Active Inclusion. There is now no thematic year because of lack of resources, but social aspects of migration and ethnic minorities will be developed through work on indicators/peer reviews etc.

The Work programme is divided in 5 areas:

- 1) The Social OMC in the light of the EU2020
- 2) Social Monitoring of the Crisis
- 3) Poverty and Social Exclusion – EU Year 2010
- 4) Sustainability and adequacy of EU pension systems
- 5) Policy developments under the Social OMC – particularly follow up on Active inclusion and Child Poverty.

■ **24th November 2009: The 2nd Joint Assessment of the SPC and the Commission on the social impact of the crisis was published:** Access it [here](#). The assessment, based on 2 SPC questionnaires deepens the previous analysis and highlights the long-term deterioration on social protection systems despite initial support, unemployment amongst precarious workers, increasing impact on indebtedness and new profiles of poverty.

■ **2nd October 2009: Minimum Income Schemes across Member States - Independent Experts Synthesis Report and National Reports.** Access them [here](#). These important independent reports highlighted the inadequate coverage, access and take up of minimum income across the EU and proposed strong recommendations including a framework directive on Minimum Income.

■ **All year: Social Monitoring of the Crisis for the 2011 Joint SPSI Report.**

The SPC will continue to monitor the impact of the crisis, with a more analytical approach concerning trends and policy effectiveness including policies to promote more labour market inclusion, working closely with the EMCO and EPC. This work will provide the main thematic focus for the Joint Report 2011.

■ **New Key Reports**

- **January 2010 – the 2009 Social Situation Report and [Special Eurobarometer Survey](#) on social climate were published.** It highlighted that whilst most people in the EU are satisfied with their well-being in the EU, the greatest dissatisfaction arises with the treatment of poverty and inequality.
- **Combating poverty and social exclusion – a statistical portrait of the European Union 2010 – published by Eurostat.** Access [here](#). **Published Nov 2009 (data July 2009).** This booklet has been produced by Eurostat in preparation for the EY 2010. It provides an important overview of key data on Poverty and social exclusion but also inequalities (to income, consumption, employment, gender and for minorities, as well as social protection expenditure)

Coming up

■ **March 2010: Peer Review Work Programme** for 2010 is being finalised and will be posted on [the Peer Review website](#) by the beginning of March 2010. It will include 8 “normal Peer Reviews” and 2 “spontaneous Peer Reviews which can arise as a result of new key issues in the OMC.

■ **April and May 2010: Role of the OMC in EU2020** – the future shape and role of the OMC remains unclear, and depends on the EU2020 discussions. The SPC will contribute to discussions on Commission proposals in the informal Council in Burgos (20 and 21 April) and in its meeting in May (18th) – to define the preparation for the next strategic reports in the light of this discussion. An informal meeting will be held in Belgium on the 13 September leading to an SPC opinion.

■ **Autumn 2010: Minimum Income follow up in Active Inclusion working paper:** The Commission continues to progress work on the follow up to the Independent Experts report, particularly on issues on adequacy, coverage and take up through an OECD study and EUROMOD simulation exercises aiming to calculate expenditure for distinctive household types. Proposals on follow up will be made in the Commission’s Staff Working Paper on Active Inclusion which will be published in the autumn of 2010

■ **October 2010 - European Parliament - Figueiredo report: the role of minimum income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe.** This report will be adopted in October plenary. A hearing involving EAPN and other NGO’s/ETUC will be held on the 16/17 March with the draft report presented in April.

EAPN Activities

Latest EAPN Activities

■ **February 2010: EAPN input to Seminar on stakeholder’s involvement in the OMC.** EAPN participated in the seminar and prepared a background paper, highlighting key concerns related to need to agree criteria to embed an on-going structured dialogue with NGO’s and people experiencing poverty at all stages of the policy cycle.

■ **December 2009: Social Cohesion at Stake: EAPN Report on the social impact of the crisis and the recovery packages** (developed by the Social Inclusion Working Group with the secretariat). You can access [here](#). The report highlighted the failure of the EU to develop a comprehensive assessment of the social impact, particularly on public finances and management and on new and existing groups of people in poverty. **Please distribute the report and its findings** 😊 😊 😊

■ **December 2009: Input to Commission on Minimum Income Study –** EAPN working group provided feedback on Minimum Income study, validating the work delivered, but highlighting the partiality of some of the independent

expert reports and need for follow up and implementation of the Recommendations – including a Framework Directive.

■ **On 22 October 2009**, EAPN and its national members started to write to EP members to support a **Parliamentary Declaration (0056/2009) which calls on Member States and the Commission to defend social rights** in the crisis. Read EAPN's letter, EAPN Spain's and EAPN Ireland's.

Coming up

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **19 and 20th February 2010: EAPN Social Inclusion Working Group meeting (20th February 2010)** following the joint EAPN (SIWG, EWG and SFWG) organized with the Irish network on the 19 February: 'Building Social Europe-from Crisis to Recovery', Dublin, Ireland. The seminar will press for a strong legacy for 2010 and in the EU2020 strategy. The SIWG meeting will develop work on minimum income and active inclusion, participation and governance, update on the crisis, and other activities through the revised Social OMC, as well as debates on extreme poverty and financing social protection.

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **March 2010 - The Adequacy of Minimum Income Explainer** will finally be published. It will be a key background document for the joint seminar. This will be followed in the late Spring (Apr/May) by the Wealth Explainer. SIWG members will help to distribute the booklet.

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **10-12 June 2010: EAPN General Assembly and seminar on Globalisation and Migration**

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **25-26th June 2010: 9th European Meeting of People experiencing poverty.** This year will take place in the European Parliament and will carryout a stocktaking on progress and focus on the need for follow up and impact. Overarching demands will be: visibility of the action, the crisis, mainstreaming of the fight against poverty. The workshops will focus on 6 themes: financial inclusion, housing/homelessness; services (Including services of general interest), participation¹, work, employment and jobs

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **Preparation of Joint Seminar on Minimum Income (23/24 September).** The SIWG will be supporting the development of the seminar with the Belgian Network, which will aim to give visibility to the impact of inadequate minimum income and help to press for a new EU framework to deliver on the commitments made. Consultancy work will be carried out, scoping the potential for a framework directive on Minimum Income.

■ ☺ ☺ ☺ **September 2010: Active Inclusion Booklet** (joint publication by SIWG, EWG and SFWG) to demonstrate good practices and key principles to deliver Active Inclusion approaches.. The SIWG will be responsible for the section on Minimum Income and integrated strategies, providing good practices and input on the text.

¹ For more details on chapter 1 to 5 , see “10 key demands” from 2009

- ☺☺☺ **Round Table – October 19th 2010 (Belgium Presidency).** The Round Table programme is currently being negotiated by the Presidency with the active involvement of BAPN and EAPN. The draft programme focuses on implementation of active inclusion and child poverty, with a strong focus on participation of people in poverty and a link with the PEP meetings.

3. ACTIVE INCLUSION

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EU Policy developments

Latest developments

- **15/02:** Information received through DG Employment speeches and informal exchanges points to the strong possibility of the new architecture including a specific Guideline on the implementation of the Active Inclusion approach, relating specifically to the employment pillar – access to quality jobs. No formal announcement or more specific information has been made available as of yet.

Coming up

- **20/04/2010** – The Spanish Presidency will organise, in Burgos, a conference dedicated to Active Inclusion. It is an event supposed to have special relevance in the context of the EY 2010. The conference will be linked to the meeting of the Social Protection Committee, which will take place during those dates. The aim will be to disseminate and promote the implementation of the Active Inclusion approach in the inclusion and social protection policies. This activity won't be financed under the budget of the European Year, but it is included in the list of activities as it is considered important in relation to the aim of achieving a more cohesive society.

■ Committees

The **Employment Committee (EMCO)** will discuss Active Inclusion (from the perspective of inclusive labour markets and in-work poverty) on **May 19th**, and will hold a policy debate on the same topic on **September 16th**.

The **Social Protection Committee** will hold a discussion on the implementation of the Active Inclusion strategy on **April 20th and 21st**, on the occasion of the informal meeting connected to the below-mentioned event of the Spanish Presidency. The SPC will also discuss the state of play of Active Inclusion on October 14th.

- The European Council will adopt Conclusion on Active Inclusion under the Spanish Presidency (ending in June 2010), as well as a Council Resolution on the active inclusion of young people, from the perspective of fighting unemployment and poverty.

EAPN Activities

Latest EAPN Activities

■ EAPN has been actively proposing the introduction of a new Guideline on Active Inclusion, which has been strongly supported by the Social Platform, as well as other partners.

■ EAPN has been actively lobbying on the need for full implementation of the Active Inclusion Recommendation as well as specific proposals on a Framework Directive on Minimum Income and reinforced EU framework guaranteeing access to affordable quality Services of General Interest, as part of its campaign on EU2020- see section.

Coming up

■ The three EAPN Working Groups will collaborate to produce a joint booklet regarding Active Inclusion, as an integrated approach but also detailing our position on each of the three pillars. A scoping note has already been produced and will be discussed in the Working Groups on the occasion of the Dublin meeting on 20 February. The booklet should be ready by the end of the summer.

☺☺☺ **Participate actively in your working group to contribute to your section of EAPN's Active Inclusion booklet!**

■ ☺☺☺ **National networks are invited to join EAPN's campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes – www.adequateincome.eu**

■ ☺☺☺ **Follow up with your own Governments the implementation at the national level of the Active Inclusion Recommendation.**

For more detailed information about the three pillars of the Active Inclusion strategy, please consult the [Social Inclusion](#) section (for minimum income), the [Employment section](#), and the [Services](#) section.

4. THE LISBON STRATEGY/EU 2020

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EU Policy developments

Latest developments

■ **11 February 2010: Informal European Council.** President Barroso presented his revised vision of the EU2020 agenda with 3 key priorities: 1) Growth based on knowledge and innovation, 2) An inclusive high-employment society and 3) Green growth: a competitive and sustainable economy. Fighting Poverty is 1 of the new key elements to 2), proposing an EU flagship programme: European Action against Poverty.

See key documents: 1) [Background Information presented by Barroso](#)
2) [Presentation by Barroso](#) and 3) [Speech by Barroso](#).

■ **2nd February 2010:** Commission publishes a [Evaluation of the Lisbon Strategy](#) and first overview of the [responses to the consultation](#) The review defends the success of “growth and jobs” and gives a partial assessment of consultation findings. Social Organisations are claimed to support in general the proposals on EU2020, although underlining need for stronger social pillar. The responses should soon be available on the consultation [website](#)

■ **December 2009:** Member States’ [National Reform Programme Implementation reports finally published.](#)

■ **24th November:** [“Consultation on the future “EU2020” Strategy”](#) was published, setting out a first idea of the shape of the future EU2020 strategy. The social dimension is completely absent. Very restricted consultation period opened until the 15th January..

■ **3rd September 2009:** Barroso publishes his “Political Guidelines for the Next Commission”. This document sets out President Barroso’s vision for the post 2010 strategy, including positive rhetoric on social and sustainable vision and need to defend social rights, but reaffirming green growth and jobs for “EU2020”.

Coming up

■ **3rd March:** Commission will publish its “package” of EU2020 proposals and have a first debate at the **Spring European Council** on the **25 and 26 March**. The proposals will be agreed in the June European Council: together with changes to the architecture/governance and Guidelines.

■ **March 2010** – Despite, the commitment to engage the **European Parliament** in the consultation, the EP was not able to respond in time... A letter was prepared by Mr Ory and agreed by the Employment Ctee in January and a contribution from the Committee will be developed for the **June Meeting** on the Guidelines, where the Parliament Employment Ctee has always had a role.

EAPN Activities

Latest EAPN Activities

■ **5 February 2010:** [EAPN Press Release: A very partial assessment](#). The press release highlights EAPN’s dissatisfaction with the Review of Lisbon and biased assessment of the consultation and demands concrete progress on the social pillar in 11 February Council.

■ **25 January 2010:** EAPN Letter to Prime Ministers and Heads of State. EAPN Brussels and national networks sent letter that highlights the commitments made by Barroso and Zapatero in the opening conference for

2010 in Madrid (19 January) and asks PMs to confirm by the 5 March whether they will support making the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequality a key objective, delivered through a strengthened OMC.

■ **12 January 2010:** EAPN speaks on behalf of the Social Platform to the Employment Committee of the European Parliament

■ **10 December 2009:** EAPN responds to the consultation and [provides model to networks](#) to respond. A large number of members respond – soon to be available on the [Commission website](#):

■ **3rd December 2010: EAPN's** Parliament Hearing on “Fighting Poverty and Inequality – Building Trust in the EU” EAPN organised a Parliamentary Hearing on “Fighting Poverty and Inequality – Building Trust in the EU”, on 3 December 2009. This hearing was hosted by MEP Proinsias De Rossa. Download the [report](#) of the event.

■ **3rd December 2010: EAPN letter to PM and Heads of State before December European Council.** The letter asked for delays on the consultation process, a strong social pillar in EU2020, assessment of the social impact of the crisis and effective follow up.


■ **15th June/finalised November 2009: EU we can trust: EAPN proposals on the post 2010 strategy**

This EAPN position was developed with the Working Groups and proposes a new social and sustainable basis for the post 2010 strategy aiming at new objectives, a social pact to deliver on fundamental rights and new governance processes and funding for the NGO sector. It was discussed and finalised through the EAPN 2010 seminar in May 2009 and the General Assembly in June.

■ **2009-10 EAPN action with Social Platform and Spring Alliance**

EAPN has actively engaged with the Social Platform actions on EU2020 and as part of the Steering Group of the Spring Alliance (alliance with trade unions, environmental and development organisations): see www.socialplatform.eu and www.Springalliance.eu. Key action have included kick off conference – January 2009, consolidation conference of the Manifesto – June 2009, Launch conference with President Barroso – 21 September 2009, as well as lobbying meetings with the Secretariat General/ the Spanish Presidency and the EPSCO Council.

Coming up

■  **19th February 2010:** EAPN Conference in Dublin on EU2020: Building Social Europe: from Crisis to Recovery. Social Inclusion, Employment and Structural Funds working groups will participate and aim to drive forward EAPN demands for a more social EU2020 and follow up.

■ ☹ ☹ ☹ **19th February – 3rd March:** EAPN at EU and national level will be lobbying with its members key actors, to try to influence the Commission's packages of proposals. EAPN members should follow up on their letters to prime ministers **to get answers to EAPN's letter by the 5th March**

■ ☹ ☹ ☹ **5-12th March:** EAPN response to the Commission Package of proposals. EAPN will make a short response to the package based on member's inputs.

■ ☹ ☹ ☹ **17th March:** EAPN will write a letter to the Spring Council outlying our concerns.

5. EMPLOYMENT

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EAPN groups in charge:	Employment Working Group

EU Policy developments

Latest developments

■ 15/12/2009 - The European Commission released the draft of the [Joint Employment Report for 2009](#). It will be discussed in the EMCO on February 17th.

■ There is still not much clarity regarding the process concerning the adoption of the new Employment Guidelines. Presumably, more will be known once the EU 2020 package is released by the Commission on March 3rd. In what concerns the European Parliament, Csaba Öry MEP (Hungary, EPP) is in charge of drafting a report on the new Guidelines. No information is yet available regarding the timeline for this report.

■ 21/01/10 The Chair of the EMCO, Mr. Bruno Coquet (France) has sent a letter to President Barroso, underlining a number of key concerns regarding the place of the European Employment Strategy in the upcoming EU 2020. Among these: the Employment Guidelines should be retained, but maybe their numbers reduced, and active involvement of the social partners and other stakeholders is crucial. The letter was accompanied by the EMCO opinion on the EES, which underlines the need for more and better jobs; pushes for a stronger social dimension, stressed quality of work (but also productivity), the proposal for Member States to submit light reports in the years in-between the NRPs, and the fact that EU targets are needed on all priorities expressed in the Guidelines.

Coming up

■ The Social Platform is proposing to organise two seminars dedicated to Employment and open to members. The first one will take place on March 11th, and the second one during the autumn months. In preparation, a questionnaire

has been dispatched to Platform members, in order to collect information about their employment perspectives and priorities and reach a common position. The seminar will benefit from the participation of Xavier Pratts Monné (Director Employment, Lisbon Strategy, International Affairs at DG EMPL) and Wallis Goelen (Head of Unit on Employment Services and Mobility at DG EMPL).


■ The proposed Peer Review activities for 2010 so far are the following:

10-11/05/2010 – The need for labour supply: increased employment for women, in Belfast, Northern Ireland (to be confirmed)

27-28/05/2010 – Activation of the elderly: increasing participation, enforce employability and working until the age of 67 in The Hague, Netherlands

14-15/06/2010 – The ageing population and educational choices, in Helsinki, Finland (confirmed)

Autumn 2010 – Systematic Preventive Integration Approach (Support) for Jobseekers and Unemployed in Berlin, Germany (confirmed)

 **Members in the countries identified above should strive to attend these peer reviews seminars, wherever possible. Please contact the Secretariat if you require support. The contact in the European Commission responsible for peer reviews is Kari-Anne Magler Wiggen (Kari-Anne-Magler.Wiggen@ec.europa.eu)**

EAPN Activities

Latest EAPN Activities

■ The EAPN Secretariat, represented by Amana Ferro, Policy Officer for employment, has participated in the following Brussels-level events:

04/02/2010 - [EC Conference on New Skills for New Jobs](#)

08/02/2010 - [European Policy Centre dialogue on the Employment Crisis](#)


Coming up

■ EAPN is currently preparing a response to the draft Joint Employment Report mentioned above.

 **Members of the EWG are invited to submit their comments and responses to the Secretariat**

■ The EWG will focus this year on three important deliverables: a position paper on in-work poverty; the Employment chapter of a booklet on Active Inclusion (together with the SIWG and the SFWG), and the video project on good activation. Watch this space for more details!

■ EAPN has been approached by SOLIDAR about organising a joint event dedicated to working poor and quality jobs. They have been involved in a project titled "[Decent Work for all – a key for Effective Industrial Relations](#)". EAPN and the EWG will produce a paper on in-work poverty, which will be officially launched at the occasion of the joint event, which will also be integrated in the SOLIDAR project.

 **Members of the EWG are invited to actively participate in the elaboration of the In-Work poverty policy paper.**

6. STRUCTURAL FUNDS

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EU Policy developments

Latest developments

■ 8/01/2010: Publication by DG Regio of a [working paper on the Future of cohesion policy in richer regions](#)

■ 10/12/2009: EC Background document on "[Territorial cohesion: Unleashing the territorial potential](#)" summarizing the answers on the green paper on territorial Cohesion and serving as a basis for discussion for the future cohesion policy

■ 10/02/2010: Adoption at first reading in plenary session by the European Parliament of an [amendment to the ERDF Regulation making eligible housing interventions in favour of marginalised communities](#).

■ 9/12/2009: publication of an [orientation paper on future Cohesion Policy](#)

■ By December 2009: submission by the Member States to the European Commission of a Report containing information on the contribution of the programmes co-financed by the Structural Funds towards the implementation of the objectives of Cohesion policy, the priorities laid down on their NRSF and the achievement of the Growth and Job Strategy

Coming up

The main cohesion policy events during the Spanish Presidency include:

■ 19/02/2010 (Zaragoza) - Informal ministerial on Cohesion Policy: Main issues to be discussed: (i) future of Cohesion Policy in the context of the budget review, (ii) follow-up of the work of the high-level group, (iii) integration of territorial cohesion in cohesion policy and (iv) simplification.

■ 16-18/03/2010 (Málaga) - Informal ministerial on Territorial Cooperation

■ 21-22/06/2010 (Toledo) - Informal ministerial on Housing and Urban Development

The main EC events and publications:

■April 2010: publication of the EC Strategic Report on the contribution of Cohesion Policy to the Lisbon Strategy

■19/04/2010: Publication of the Results of 2000-2006 programming period of Structural Funds

■October 2010: Publication of the 5th Cohesion Report

EAPN Activities

Latest EAPN Activities

■ October 2010 - EAPN published a Survey carried out among EAPN Members to assess the contribution of Structural Funds to social inclusion. The document can be found [here](#).

Coming up

■ March 2010 EAPN will publish in March 2010 its position on the Post-2013 which will aim at contributing to the debate on the next programming period (2014-2020) and to the place to be played by Cohesion Policy regarding the Post-Lisbon Strategy.

☺☺☺☺ **The Members of the SFWG are invited:**

- **to highlight the role to be played by Structural Funds in EAPN recommendations on the Post-Lisbon Strategy during Dublin Conference**
- **to contribute to EAPN's Active Inclusion Booklet to show how Structural Funds can ensure a full use of the Active Inclusion Strategy and to the elaboration of EAPN Position Paper on the Post-2013.**

7. SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST /SOCIAL SERVICES

Contact person in the Secretariat:	Vincent Caron	+ 32 2 226 58 54
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EAPN group in charge:	Social Inclusion Working Group	

EU Policy developments

Latest developments

■ 20/01/2010 - Thanks to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty which gives a new legal power to the European Parliament on SGEI (art.14 TFUE), the Public Services Intergroup (SGI, SSGI) has been set up. Its overall objective is to be a place for debate between all political groups on SGI and SSGI taken the new general disposals of the EU Treaty and To follow the works of the Parliament on SGEI and to monitor the coherence of statements of the Parliament on SGEI (definition, organisation, financing), including for SGEI ruled by sector-based legislation.

■ January 2010 - The EMPL Committee of the European Parliament attributed to Ponsias De Rossa an initiative Report on SSGI to move forward in the particular context of the economic crisis.

Coming up

■ Second half of 2010 - The European Commission (DG TREN) in partnership with Eurostat will set up a European Observatory on Energy Poverty.

■ October 2010: The Belgian Presidency will organise an informal Council dedicated to energy poverty.

■ 27/10/2010 - The 3rd SSGI Forum will be held in Brussels. The Public Services Intergroup will be in charge of making proposals on the content and form of this Forum.


■ December 2010 - The SPC will continue to work on SSGI and more precisely on a voluntary framework for social services to be adopted by the EPSCO during its December meeting.

EAPN Activities

Coming up

■ EAPN draft position paper on Energy Poverty will be published on March 2010

■ 24/03/2010 - The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) together with CECODHAS-Housing Europe organise a conference entitled *“Getting to grips with energy poverty. From EU to Cities to Homes”* that will take place in Brussels within the European Sustainable Energy Week and also as part of the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion. In the framework of the follow up of the Third Energy Package, this conference will try to embrace these questions: What are the figures about fuel poverty? How can local stakeholders break this vicious circle? What are the replicable solutions developed at the local level? What are the European levers to promote them?

 **Members of the SIWG are invited to actively contribute to the elaboration of EAPN draft position paper on energy poverty. Members interested in participating to the joint Conference on energy poverty are invited to consult EAPN and the EY2010 websites to get more information and registration details.**