

*24 out of 27 Member States currently have national minimum income schemes, but there are serious flaws with their accessibility and their adequacy.*

- Minimum Income schemes are a fundamental right, but are **not accessible to all**, and the levels are **often too low** to allow for a decent standard of living.
- Minimum Income schemes are **increasingly associated with compulsion and with a negative image of people experiencing poverty, undermining commitment to the European Social Model.**
- EU level willingness to go further on the issue of minimum income is hindered by a **lack of political commitment** to deliver on agreements reached and guarantee social standards.

The [Council's Recommendation from 1992](#) stipulates *the basic right of a person to sufficient resources and social assistance to live in a manner compatible with human dignity*

2000

EAPN lobbies for progress on the '92 Recommendation, through the newly created social **Open Method of Coordination**, guaranteeing access to rights, resources and services.

2004

EAPN demands concrete progress on minimum income through the **Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion** and the **3<sup>rd</sup> European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty**.

2007

EAPN produces input and response to the **Commission's consultation on Active Inclusion** (a new strategy incorporating the right to an adequate income support, access to quality services and inclusive labour markets).

2008

**EAPN kicks-off a new campaign, producing a leaflet, posters, postcards, under the heading Ensuring an Adequate Minimum Income for all! Download them from [www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu)!**

EAPN holds important conference on Active Inclusion in Paris, and agrees [common principles](#). The French Presidency agrees to press for **Recommendation on Active Inclusion**.

EAPN actively lobbies with its members to prevent the Recommendation being downgraded to a Communication. Read [EAPN's Key Messages to the Round Table 2008](#).

**October 2008 - The European Commission published the Recommendation on Active Inclusion, reprising the '92 Recommendation principles. Endorsed by the European Parliament and the EPSCO Council.**

**Professor John Veit-Wilson produces, for EAPN, a paper dedicated to [Myths And Realities](#), dismantling fallacies and wrong assumptions about Minimum Income and its recipients.**

2009

EAPN publicises an [appeal to European decision-makers](#), urging them to implement or improve minimum income schemes for a dignified life. The appeal is translated in 19 national versions and signed by prominent personalities at EU and national level. It is then published in European and national newspapers.

A new website is launched to support the campaign, also featuring an online petition. Read the appeal, sign the petition and see our supporters at [www.adequateincome.eu](http://www.adequateincome.eu)!

EAPN lobbies for the implementation of the Recommendation, with a clear Road Map at EU and national level, and inputs to work of the Network of Independent Experts.

New lobbying material is produced: [EAPN's Key Demands for the next European Parliament](#), as well as EAPN's position paper on the post Lisbon Strategy, [An EU We Can Trust](#)

**September 2009 - The Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion publishes a [report on the minimum income schemes situation in the Member States](#). The report clearly calls for a Directive at European level.**

EAPN's demands for a **Framework Directive on Minimum Income** are incorporated in the [Social Platform](#) and the [Spring Alliance's](#) campaign on Europe 2020.

2010

The [Europe 2020 Strategy](#) includes a commitment to ensure an adequate income through Active Inclusion, delivered through new Flagship Platform against Poverty, the social Open Method of Coordination and Guideline 10.

The [shared messages](#) from the **NGO coalition for 2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty** includes explicit support for a Framework Directive on Minimum Income.

EAPN publishes an explainer on [Adequacy of Minimum Income](#).

EAPN proposes a model for a **European Framework Directive on Minimum Income**.

**The European Parliament votes on an own-initiative report on the role of minimum income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe.**

In some countries, open letters from minimum income recipients will be sent to decision-makers and the media.

**GET INVOLVED!**

[www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu)  
[www.adequateincome.eu](http://www.adequateincome.eu)

*Because everyone has a right to a life in dignity.*