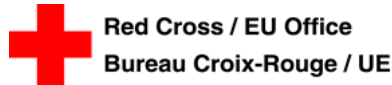




FEANTSA



1st February 2013
Brussels

Re: The Proposal for a Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived

To : President Von Rompuy, Heads of State, Prime Ministers & President Barroso,

In advance of the next meeting of the European Council, Caritas Europa, Eurodiaconia, EAPN Eurochild, FEANTSA, FEBA, and the Red Cross EU Office wish to strongly urge you to support the EU Commission's proposal for a new **European Fund for Most Deprived Persons**.

As EU-level organisations whose members are active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion across Europe, we believe that in times of economic and financial crisis, with a tremendous number of citizens in the EU requiring support to cope with basic needs, it is important that Europe shows solidarity with those hit hardest by the crisis.

We recognize that - unlike other actions and policies - the Most Deprived Fund will respond to immediate and urgent needs of people, by providing resources to alleviate human suffering and help people to find their way back to a decent and dignified life.

We call on the members of the European Council to:

- Protect the proposed “broad scope” of the new programme, allowing Member States to use the Fund for responding to different types of deprivation i.e. food, homelessness and child poverty
- Ensure a budget for the new programme that is separate from the ESF, and which does not draw from its budget
- Ensure the highest possible amount for the budget for the new programme.

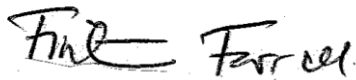
Yours Sincerely,



Freek Spinnewijn
Director FEANTSA



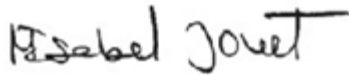
Leon Prop
Director Red Cross EU Office



Fintan Farrell
Director of EAPN



Heather Roy
Secretary General Eurodiaconia



Maria Isabel Jonet
President of FEBA



Jorge Nuno Mayer
Secretary General Caritas Europa



Jana Hainsworth
Director Eurochild