

EAPN

Draft Final Declaration

General Assembly

Tallinn, 28th of June 2014

EAPN, meeting in Tallinn, at its annual General Assembly:

- Congratulates the new democratically elected representatives to the European Parliament;
- Recalls the achievements of the previous European Parliament, in particular in the form of the support for the poverty reduction target, towards progress on a framework for adequate minimum income, an effective Youth Guarantee and the social earmarking of the ESF, support for FEAD and for increased participation of social and civil society partners particularly in the Europe 2020 process;
- Thanks the more than 80 MEPs from across the political spectrum for their pledges in support of **EAPN's Manifesto** calling for a Social Pact for Europe; an Effective EU Strategy to fight Poverty, Social Exclusion and Discrimination and a Strengthened Democracy and Civil Society Participation.
- Reminds the new Parliament that European policies are currently driven by macro-economic governance and concerns exacerbating if not creating growing poverty, exclusion and inequality rather than progress towards a more social Europe;
- Recalls that in 2015, the EU institutions, under the auspices of the new Parliament and Commission will carry out a Mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which so far has failed to progress on the poverty target, increasing poverty by 6.6 million to 124,2 million since the beginning of the strategy.
- Calls on the newly elected European Parliament to recognize the seriousness of the poverty crisis and support the call for an urgent response by Commission and Council in the form of:
 - An integrated “Marshall Plan” to create quality jobs, and invest in social protection and public services in order to stop the spiraling poverty levels.
- Urges the new Members of the EP to support :
 - A medium-term integrated, multidimensional strategy to progress on the achieving the poverty reduction poverty target of Europe 2020 with a clear road map, including the development of a resolution.

- an adequate minimum income as a crucial pillar of an integrated antipoverty strategy and automatic stabilizer to the economy and to support calls to press for progress towards an EU framework Directive;
 - To monitor and insure the proper implementation of the 20 per cent ESF earmarking to fight poverty and social exclusion;
 - To develop an own-initiative report to help ensure that the Mid-term Review converts Europe 2020 into a coherent and balanced, democratic, social and economic strategy committed to delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which can take concrete actions to reduce poverty and inequality, to promote participation of civil society including people experiencing poverty as well as increase the role of national and European Parliaments.
- Calls attention to the Hearings of the candidate Commissioners and the Parliament's power to approve the Commission and:
- Urges the Parliament to ensure that the new commission candidates support a social pact for Europe, which puts people at the centre;
- Calls for meaningful engagement with civil society by:
- Supporting an Annual Parliamentary Hearing of People Experiencing Poverty; and
 - Supporting the creation of an Intergroup on Democracy and Participation.

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