

To
Sergio Aires
President
EAPN

Brussels, 14 September 2016

Dear Sergio,

With this letter I inform you that the Executive Board of Caritas Europa has taken a decision regarding our relationship with EAPN. This decision has three points:

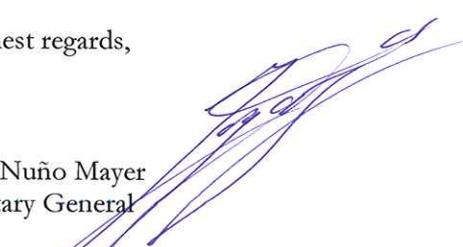
1. The resignation of membership in EAPN;
 2. The commitment to continue co-operating with EAPN;
 3. The recommendation to Caritas Europa member organisations to engage in the national EAPN networks.
1. **The resignation of membership in EAPN.** With this letter I inform you that Caritas Europa terminates its membership in EAPN as of 1st of October 2016. The reasons for leaving are the following: The main reason is our understanding that EAPN shall be the network of national anti-poverty networks, while Social Platform gathers the European organisations and networks. There is still a confusion in the EU social policy environment about the roles of EAPN and Social Platform. In the past we had sometimes de facto problems with respect to representation: our understanding of membership in an organisation is not that this organisation represents and speaks on behalf of its members in front of other stakeholders; this has created conflicts of interest. With the resignation we intend to solve these problems, at least for Caritas Europa.
2. **The commitment to continue cooperating with EAPN.** In Caritas we highly appreciate EAPN's role in the EU. We acknowledge that EAPN is a very experienced and relevant European network in the anti-poverty field, with which Caritas Europa and its member organisations have been working for a long period. Two main fields of EAPN's expertise are very relevant for the cooperation with Caritas: 1. European social policies, especially the follow up of the Europe 2020 targets in the framework of the European Semester. 2. The promotion of the participation of people experiencing poverty. In these fields is Caritas committed to continue working side by side with EAPN.
3. **The recommendation to Caritas Europa member organisations to engage in the national EAPN networks.** Following the rationale of the two previous points, I inform you that today an e-mail will go out to our EU members, encouraging them to continue being active members in the national EAPN structures.

With this decision Caritas Europa intends to clarify its relationship with EAPN and – even if it may sound paradoxal – strengthen EAPN. In this sense, and in order to avoid misunderstandings that could be detrimental to our two organisations, I will also inform today the European Organisations members of EAPN.

Looking forward to the joint work at the service of the people in poverty, receive my

Warmest regards,

Jorge Nuño Mayer
Secretary General



Caritas Europa aisbl

Rue de la Charité, 43 - 1210 Brussels - Belgium • T: +32 (0)2 280 02 80 • F: +32 (0)2 230 16 58 • E-mail: info@caritas.eu • www.caritas.eu



caritas europa
Rue de la charité 43
B-1210 Bruxelles
Belgique