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For the attention of the president of EAPN

Montreuil, 20 Juin 2018

**Re:** Emmaus Europe's application to become a member of EAPN

Dear President,

The Emmaus groups are confronted on a daily basis by human distress in Europe **and including people is an important component of Emmaus' work in Europe**, with the aim being to develop humane solutions commensurate with the migration topics.

The Emmaus ragpickers' traditional activity has evolved and now encompasses not only the textiles sector but also WEEE and furniture waste. In accordance with the Emmaus Movement's values of simplicity and solidarity, the Emmaus companions and employees recycle and reuse, giving a fresh lease of life to second-hand goods, thus helping to manage the ever-increasing amount of waste generated by our consumer society.

**Emmaus is therefore at the very heart of sustainable development with its three pillars: environmental, social and income-generating work.**

Moreover, Emmaus is unique because of its social impact - its waste management and recovery work enables social ties to be forged by creating jobs and reintegrating socially-excluded people into the world of work. This work enables men and women to make a decent living from their work while being proud of helping those who suffer most. **Solidarity is therefore at the heart of Emmaus' work. We do not sell all of the goods that we collect: some are donated to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, the homeless, and migrants. This practice of intensive solidarity aims to implement Emmaus' core values, while endeavouring to respond to the current social and environmental crises.**

Since 2009, Emmaus Europe has been raising the profile of the practices implemented by the European member organisations. A number of resources have been created and then circulated internally in order to continue developing alternatives while sharing practices. Visit our website ([www.emmaus-europe.org](http://www.emmaus-europe.org)) for more information.

**In this way, Emmaus Europe has helped foster a discussion on sustainable development related issues in the Emmaus Movement.**

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This work has led to us undertaking in-depth surveys over the past few years so as to gain an overview of the Emmaus Movement across Europe. The surveys have improved understanding of each group's practices and **have been used to illustrate the advocacy work done by Emmaus Europe**. Precisely because Emmaus develops alternatives for a truly circular, social, humane and solidarity-based economy, we are fully justified in asking questions and making proposals on the legal and regulatory framework applied to these sectors, at both the European and national levels.

**We are now seeking to step up the sharing of experiences and projects with other networks in Europe.**

For the aforementioned reasons, Emmaus Europe is keen to discuss ways of collectively bolstering the role of social and solidarity economy stakeholders, building on our legitimacy in this exercise in European sharing.

Please contact me if you should have any questions about this matter.

Best wishes,



**Willi DOES. President of Emmaus Europe.**

**“Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.”**

Article 1 of the European Union Charter of Fundamental

Rights

