



To EAPN Exco Member

Good morning everyone

Freek, whom I thank for his intervention, anticipated, with his email, this communication that is the result of a discussion between members of the Italian network.

Convinced that this topic needs in-depth discussion at all levels, I believe it is necessary contribute to the discussion that will open by making our voice heard, to intervene and anticipate some reflections to prepare the discussion and stimulate the active participation of other European networks and organizations, given that the time reserved for discussion on this issue, in the course of the next Exco, it is somewhat reduced.

We inform you that the Italian network is absolutely and against this project.

We explain why:

EAPN was founded 29 years ago as an organization that brought together NGOs at the level of Member States and European NGOs. (After a long preparatory work lasting over two years with the founding Assembly of November 1990, EAPN was born). It is an organization designed differently from all the other networks and as an inverted pyramid: the European network was founded first and then the national networks were born; from the outset one of the objectives of EAPN, as per the statute, was to support the strengthening of national networks "*... Its purpose is to establish across Europe a democratic and effective network of voluntary groups or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who work against poverty ...*"; the following passage of the statute should also be underlined; "*... The explicit and main purpose of the groups participating in the Network must be to allow people and groups living in poverty and social exclusion to fulfill their responsibilities, to exercise their rights, to break their isolation and to oppose their exclusion social*" I reiterate the purpose of the networks associated with EAPN is to allow people who experience situations of poverty to fulfill their responsibilities ...

1 - **EAPN is not a successful NGO**, like those taken as an example, but it is an NGO whose success is to stimulate and "oblige" the Commission and the European Council to implement instruments and policies aimed at eradicating poverty;

In practice, **the first and true legitimacy of EAPN** is not that of being a network of experts (the

Commission and the European Parliament are continuously organizing expert consultations and there are already networks of experts recognized by the Commission) but its true legitimacy **is its capacity to have a common expression and position on democratic bases for deep-rooted exchanges, not in a single European thought, in relation to what is really happening inside from all countries, despite their diversity, the diversity of the member states in which they operate, their cultures, their history, their economic and social realities, their role and the role they play damage in the social field to local and national associations (NGOs), organization and networking of these associations;**

This is only possible if members beyond their differences, which remain very large 30 years after the creation of EAPN, have the opportunity to move from "I to WE".

This implies creating trust and mutual respect without those who feel "small", for whatever reason, are dispossessed by the "big" regardless of their (good or bad) reasons. Being all partners with equal dignity and directly represented in the process of reflection and decision of the Executive Committee is an absolute necessity to achieve this goal. The role of EAPN is to create and express a European dimension that is not yet present on the ground and is still to be built very widely. From these considerations it emerges that true governance is that all EAPN member networks and organizations are actively involved in EXCO and that this role is not delegated, in any way to others and at least to scholars or bureaucratic organs .

2 - Already over the last decade and beyond, with the excuse of reduced funding, the spaces for democratic participation and representation of members (both national and European organizations) have been significantly reduced;

3- From several years "places of reflection" (work groups) of exchange, elaboration of ideas and political proposals have been eliminated, to the detriment of the effective participation of members, with the excuse of the "financial crisis";

4 - Over the course of time, the actual coordination of the working groups to the members was effectively subtracted to "deliver it" effectively into the hands of the secretariat, achieving the double effect of renouncing the true expertise that the participating members have acquired on the ground and contributing to remove responsibility of the participants themselves;

5- Because of these cuts to the effective participation of members, the EAPN policy proposal has weakened a lot and often instead of doing its own pressure work, work done has been functional only by the European Commission;

7 - Has been abolished the "places" of training of members , which has proven to be the only

effective training to prepare network members to understand the role and functions of EAPN, for to approach the European level and knowledge assuming roles in the various places of decision-making of EAPN;

8 - The bureau makes a proposal based on 25% of the members and not based on a majority of 75% of the members and we fail to understand neither the logic nor the ratio;

7- Making the next meeting of the EXCO the place of discussion and decision of the proposal is very strange and incomprehensible with the danger of creating serious fractures among the members of the network close to the European elections that carry a serious risk for the idea of European Union and the dissolution of the Union itself.

A process of radical change, such as that proposed by the bureau, presupposes time for reflection and the development of reactions on the part of the members with in-depth discussion within the national networks and European organizations and certainly cannot be contained in a three-hour meeting , with two distinct groups discussing different topics ... it seems to us not very respectful of the members of the network.

... These are only the first considerations that I have anticipate for stimulate the reflection of all members of the EXCO; reserve the right to continue this reflection during the Pamplona meeting...

A greeting and an invitation to reflection to all

CILAP EAPN Italia
Vito Telesca - Exco member