

Brussels, 28 June 2019

Dear MEP

We write to you today, on behalf of the [European Anti-Poverty Network](#) and our European member organisations ([ATD 4th World](#), [International Federation of Social Workers](#), [FEANTSA](#), [SMES-Europa](#), [The Salvation Army](#), [AGE Platform Europe](#), [Emmaus Europe](#), [European Network Against Racism](#), [PICUM](#), [European Food Banks Federation](#), [Eurochild](#) and [Eurodiaconia](#)). EAPN is the largest network of anti-poverty organisations in Europe, representing thousands of anti-poverty organisations and activists across 32 European countries, working with and for people with direct experience of poverty.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate you on your success in the recent elections for the European Parliament! In the weeks preceding the elections, we were thrilled to see over **250 MEP candidates from 20 countries** pledge their support to work to '[make Europe poverty free](#)' should they be (re)elected. You were one of these candidates!

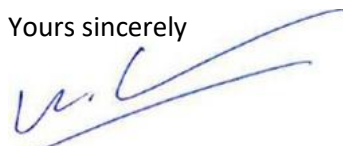
We are thrilled to now have **36 MEPs from 16 countries and 5 political families** who have committed to work to make Europe poverty free, and we would now like to start exploring how we might work with you over the next 5 years to make this more concrete, and indeed how to ensure that the eradication of poverty in Europe is high up on the political agenda. With well over 100 million people in Europe still living at risk of poverty, and a recently agreed '[Strategic Agenda](#)' of the European Council which, while committing to tackle inequality, leave no-one behind, ensure adequate social protection systems, ensure a just transition and a fair and effective taxation system, stops some way short of committing to **eradicating poverty**, this issue is more important than ever.

At this stage, we have three specific requests for our allies in the European Parliament:

- a) We ask you to ensure the continuation of the Intergroup on Poverty and Human Rights and to mobilise your political group in favour of this. **If you support the continuation of this group, we encourage you to highlight this support by clicking [here](#).**
- b) We invite you to participate in an introductory 'Roundtable on the Fight Against Poverty' on the afternoon of 17 October, which we hope to organise within the European Parliament in Brussels as an opening event of the Intergroup. **Please click [here](#) to let us know if you are interested in attending or helping organise!**
- c) We encourage you to recognise the important role that people experiencing poverty play in the fight against poverty by committing to attend the 18th European meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, which will discuss political priorities of people experiencing poverty from all over Europe towards the new Institutions. This crucial meeting will be an excellent way for incoming MEPs to really understand the reality of people experiencing poverty throughout Europe, and to work with them to discuss how to make progress on these priorities. Priorities will be presented to decision makers between 09 15 - 10 30, and then discussed in more detail in 5 different groups from 11 00 - 12 30, in the Crown Plaza in Brussels on 19 November. **Please click [here](#) if you, and / or your assistants are interested!**

Thank you once again for your commitment to joining us in the fight against poverty in Europe. We look forward to working with you on this ambitious agenda.

Yours sincerely



Carlos Susias, EAPN President



Leo Williams, EAPN Director



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

Bert Luyts, Advocacy Officer, **ATD Fourth World Europe**
Ana Radulescu, European President, **International Federation of Social Workers**
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