

# YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE

## BUILDING A SOCIAL EUROPE



### Voting for a Fairer Future: Your Power in 2024

#### WHO DOES WHAT?

In the European Union (EU), 4 bodies of governance work in harmony:

#### THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

Think of this as the people's voice in the EU. It consists of members directly elected by EU citizens. They discuss, change, and vote on new laws and policies.

#### THE COUNCIL OF THE EU:

It includes representatives from each EU country. They work together with the European Parliament to decide on laws. So, they share the power to decide what rules everyone has to follow.

#### THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

This is the team that gets things done. They come up with ideas for new laws and make sure those laws are put into action. They also make sure that all EU countries follow these laws consistently.

#### THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU (CJEU):

They ensure that Member States implement the legislation correctly. It's only actionable by the highest national courts. Once their interpretation is made by the CJEU, the national courts have to follow the decision.

#### SO, WHAT DO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE TO DO WITH ALL THAT?



Members of Parliament (MEPs) are responsible for **discussing and voting these policies**. They are directly voted at national level every 5 years.

#### YOUR VOTE FOR SOCIAL RIGHTS!

EU policies significantly impact our daily lives.

This is why it's so crucial that we all exercise our **Right to Vote** and be **informed about the parties that are willing to push for an ambitious social agenda**, where each of us has access to:

- 🏠 adequate income & accessible, affordable and quality essential services, including
- 🎓 education, 🏥 healthcare, 🏠 housing,
- 🚗 transport, ⚡ energy, 🍷 food, 💧 water,
- 👏 social services and 📱 digital tools.

When you vote for **social rights**, you are voting for a Europe that puts **social inclusion** at its heart and prioritises **eradicating poverty and inequality**.

#### A EUROPE THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND!



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN JUNE 2024 AND ENCOURAGE A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR NEIGHBOUR TO JOIN YOU AT THE POLLS!

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### EXPLORE HOW THE EU HAS SHAPED YOUR DAILY LIFE!



Imagine you, your friend or relative became a dad, you or they can now have at least 10 days of paid paternity leave thanks to the **WORK-LIFE BALANCE DIRECTIVE**.

However, we still need better accountability and implementation of this at national level.



If you don't have a permanent address, you should be allowed to apply for minimum income. This is because of the **EU COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON ADEQUATE MINIMUM INCOME**. It also recognises the importance of ensuring access to essential services and other important social rights as rights and not just as "conditions" or "tools" to get people into work.



However, EAPN recommends a Framework Directive on Minimum Income with a common set of minimum requirements and provisions.



Through the **EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL** the EU has committed to cutting its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 while ensuring a fair and equitable transition. The **FIT FOR 55 PACKAGE** aims to achieve these climate targets in a fair, affordable and competitive way.



EAPN strongly urges the EU to ensure that the green transition is not only fair, but also benefits everyone, in particular low-income households. This means integrating social aspects into all policies and ensuring they are consistent with climate and biodiversity goals.



Every child should have the same rights, free from discrimination and intimidation. Because of the **EUROPEAN CHILD GUARANTEE** EU countries have committed to:

- free early childhood education and care,
- free education,
- free healthcare,
- healthy food &
- adequate housing.

Scan the QR code or check the link to access our EU elections campaign webpage, including the available EU Parties' manifestos.  
[www.eapn.eu/2024eu\\_elections](http://www.eapn.eu/2024eu_elections)

