



Roxana Mînzatu

Executive Vice President of the European Commission
for People, Skills and Preparedness

Brussels, 26 November 2024

Subject: Meeting request from EU civil society organisations about the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

Dear Executive Vice President Roxana Mînzatu,

First, we wish to congratulate you on your successful hearing of 12 November and the approval of your nomination by the European Parliament.

We are writing on behalf of 15 EU civil society organisations working on social rights, anti-poverty, homelessness, mental health, anti-discrimination, racial justice, Roma people, rights of persons with disabilities, undocumented migrants, children, young people and older people. We welcome the announcement by the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen of the first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, and believe **it is a crucial opportunity to step up the EU action to contribute to the eradication of poverty.**

21.4% of the EU population were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023. Alarming, this includes one in four of all children - as you acknowledged in your introductory statement during your hearing. Your ambition to dedicate one of the pillars of your mandate to social fairness and to build a strong Social Europe through reinforcing social protection and social welfare systems is greatly appreciated.

The EU's commitments under the European Pillar of Social Rights and the UN poverty reduction targets cannot be achieved without a strong political vision that includes a structural and systemic approach to

eradicating poverty and social exclusion. We believe that the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy presents a unique opportunity to drive this change and transform the EU's commitment into tangible policies that reach people experiencing, or at risk of, poverty and social exclusion while addressing the root causes of this complex issue.

We believe poverty is first and foremost a fundamental rights violation, leading to not only material deprivation, but also, to social and psychological deprivations, and taking its roots in systemic and structural injustice. Both the climate and the digital transitions, without targeted support measures, will further marginalise groups in vulnerable situations. In addition, people living in poverty are not a homogeneous group and eradicating poverty requires addressing its intersection with other forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of gender and gender identity, race and ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion and belief, residence status and migrant background.

As civil society organisations working on a wide range of fundamental rights, **our diverse and complementary perspectives on eradicating poverty will be key to contribute to the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**, from its elaboration to its implementation and evaluation, and to its intersection with other key EU policy frameworks, such as the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Anti-Discrimination Strategies and Action Plans, the upcoming Affordable Housing Plan, the EU economic governance framework, the European Child Guarantee, the European Care Strategy, the Pact on Asylum and Migration, the EU action plan on the integration and inclusion of migrants, and the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2027.

Furthermore, we very much welcome your announcement of an EU-wide social policy dialogue during the first year of your mandate and **call on you to make this dialogue as inclusive as possible in order to listen to those who are marginalised, especially in the context of the preparation of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**. As umbrella organisations working with national and local civil society organisations and people living in poverty, we stand ready to cooperate with you in this process.

We would be honored to discuss these issues with you as soon as your mandate kicks off and stand ready to help your team find a suitable date. In the meantime, we wish you all the best for the start of the European Commission term and look forward to cooperating with you.

Sincerely yours,

Juliana Wahlgren
Director
European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

Maciej Kucharczyk
Secretary General
AGE Platform

Maria Nyman
Secretary General
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European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network

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