

The Right Honourable David Cameron MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

7 June 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

Europe 2020: Support for a relative Poverty Target

May I congratulate you on becoming Prime Minister. I am writing on behalf of the organisations listed below regarding proposals for the new Europe 2020 strategy, which are due to be discussed at the next Council of Ministers meeting in June. The inclusion of the target to reduce the proportion of individuals at risk of poverty by 25% by 2020 is an important step forward in the fight against poverty across the EU. Further, it is essential that the relative poverty measure (60% median income) remains the indicator used to measure progress towards the poverty reduction target. **We are asking that you support the inclusion of the poverty reduction target and the relative measure during discussions on this issue at the June Council meeting.**

We believe that while all measures have difficulties and limitations, the 60% median is robust and well tested, and links both to the resources available in the society and to the standard of living considered as 'normal' in the given society. As you noted in your Scarman lecture in 2005, poverty should be understood as relative concept and must be measured as such. In addition, you have also noted in your recent Hugo Young lecture the importance of addressing inequality in our society. The commitment to an EU wide target on poverty reduction would be an important statement of the UK's commitment to making progress on addressing inequality.

The inclusion of the poverty reduction target will complement the work already underway in the UK to address poverty, and will reinforce the leadership the UK has taken in the EU in respect to key issues such as child poverty. Support for the establishment of this high level target to reduce poverty will be an important statement of the UK Government's intention to continue to press for actions to reduce poverty, especially in these difficult economic times.

We look forward to receiving your response to this letter and to hearing the outcomes from the June Council meeting.

Yours sincerely



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The Poverty Alliance (Scotland)
on behalf of the European Anti-Poverty Network UK

Ian Mather
Chair
Anti-Poverty Network Cymru

Dr Kamal Rasul
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Puja Dabari,
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Colin Hampton
Co-Ordinator
**Derbyshire Unemployed Workers
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Scottish Churches Housing Action

Norman Kerr
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Dave Moxham
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