

Date:

Refer: EP Report (2010/2039(INI)): The role of Minimum Income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe, Rapporteur: Ilda Figueiredo

EAPN calls on MEPs to support the amendment to the Figueiredo report asking for an EU Framework Directive on Minimum Income (Amendment M to paragraph 5 – replacing 137-144)

Dear Member of Parliament

On Thursday 24 June the members of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee will vote on the amendments to the Figueiredo report: The role of Minimum Income in combating poverty and social exclusion.

The topic of the adequacy of Minimum Income Schemes has been raised consistently in the European Meetings of people experiencing poverty over the last years and has been the subject of a campaign organised by EAPN (see www.adequateincome.eu). For people experiencing poverty, 'minimum income schemes' are a crucial survival support. For the society, 'minimum income schemes' (as part of social protection systems) provide the necessary 'economic stabilisers' to manage 'market failures' as demonstrated in the current crisis. For EAPN adequate minimum income schemes provide the sound foundation on which to build decent societies where all can live in dignity.

In light of the above and building on the work developed under the Open Method of Coordination on Social Inclusion (the Active Inclusion Principles) we believe it is now time for the EU to take a step forward in EU cooperation to defend social rights by agreeing to establish an EU Framework Directive on Minimum Income Schemes. It is in this regard that I write to you and urge you to support the amendment to the Figueiredo report calling for such a Directive.

On going work in EAPN in preparation for a seminar (24 September) on this topic, which will be held with support from the Belgian Presidency, demonstrates that article 153h (TFEU) provides the necessary legal base for such a Directive. Support from the elected members of the Parliament for such a Directive during this '2010 Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion' would ensure a lasting legacy from the year.

We will be following your vote with great interest and hope that you can champion this advance in European cooperation to defend a central element of the European Social Model.

Yours sincerely