

[REDACTED] (EMPL)

From: [REDACTED] (CAB-THYSSEN)
Sent: mardi 23 janvier 2018 10:56
To: [REDACTED]@eurodiaconia.org'
Subject: RE: Future of the EU's social policies and funding - joint letter from Eurodiaconia, the Salvation Army EU affairs office and FEANTSA

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of Commissioner Thyssen, I would like to thank you for your e-mail.

Baudouin Baudru, Expert-Member particularly in charge of the MFF within the Cabinet Thyssen, would like to meet with you.

If this proposal suits you, could you please let me know if you would be available on Friday 26/1 around 11:00?

I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant to Baudouin Baudru and Raf De Backer



European Commission
Cabinet of Marianne Thyssen
Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills and Labour Mobility

BERL 10 [REDACTED]
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium
+32 2 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@eurodiaconia.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:41 AM
To: THYSSEN Marianne (CAB-THYSSEN); OETTINGER Guenther (CAB-OETTINGER)
Cc: PASERMAN Ruth (CAB-THYSSEN); BAUDRU Baudouin (CAB-THYSSEN); CAB THYSSEN; CAB OETTINGER CONTACT; SCHULTE Markus (CAB-OETTINGER); Heather Roy; Freek Spinnewijn; Mike STANNETT
Subject: Future of the EU's social policies and funding - joint letter from Eurodiaconia, the Salvation Army EU affairs office and FEANTSA

Eurodiaconia

Dear Ms. Thyssen,
Dear Mr. Oettinger,

As European organisations working with homeless people in the European Union and beyond, we want to share some opinions and proposals on the future of the European Union's social policies and funding. Our member organizations work daily with thousands of people facing one of the most extreme forms of poverty in Europe, homelessness. They witness a drastic increase of homelessness. This observation is backed by official statistics showing an alarming rise in homelessness^[1].

Our three organisations have been advocating for brave political action to work to end homelessness by 2030, and in this perspective we strongly welcome the European Union's recent political commitments to address homelessness, in particular:

- ✓ The European interinstitutional *proclamation* endorsing the European *Pillar of Social Rights* on 17th November 2017, and its principle 19 on housing and assistance for the homeless, stating that "Vulnerable people have the right to appropriate assistance and protection against forced eviction".
- ✓ The Annual Growth Survey 2018's clear demand for Member States to tackle homelessness, underlying the need to protect "vulnerable people against unjustified forced eviction and foreclosures, as well as tackling homelessness".
- ✓ The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, whereby the European Union and Member States have committed to end extreme poverty and to "leave no one behind". SDG1 on ending poverty & SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities in particular will require ambitious action on homelessness.

We believe that priority 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the strong wording of the Annual Growth Survey 2018, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, demonstrate a genuine political commitment and a framework for investment of energy and resources in the fight against homelessness in Europe.

We are keen to help take this forward concretely, alongside the European institutions and the Member States. One example of this commitment is FEANTSA's campaign "Be Fair, Europe - Stand Up for Homeless People" which calls on EU policymakers to work with national governments, regions, cities and stakeholders to put an end to homelessness by:

1. Making more effective use of existing policy instruments
2. Supporting homeless people in all relevant sectoral areas
3. Monitoring homelessness and benchmarking progress at Member State level
4. Defending the rights of homeless people
5. Investing EU funds in ending homelessness

We ask for you to support us in working for the implementation of these political priorities, in particular in the context of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the design of the new Multiannual Financial Framework. Indeed, one of the European Union's main tools to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020, is currently under discussion and is a key opportunity to turn the EU's recent political commitments on homelessness into real action. These discussions must take into account the essential need to invest in social inclusion and support to those living in the most deprived situations, notably homeless people. We know from the current period that EU funding can be a critical lever for better progress on tackling homelessness in Member States. Good practices^[2] exist across Europe, especially when it comes to the Fund for European aid to the most deprived and the European Social Fund^[3]. There is however no space for complacency and much scope to do better, building on learning from this period.

In a context of downward pressure on resources, competing priorities, simplification, a drive for flexibility and the merging of instruments, there is a risk that homeless people will be left behind in the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. The European Union must take measures to ensure that the future financial instruments designed to support solidarity and cohesion reach the most deprived, notably homeless people, and make a genuine difference to their situation (this should include homeless EU mobile citizens as well as undocumented migrants who are particularly vulnerable to becoming destitute

and are often unable to access their social and human rights of shelter and basic care). We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you how this can be achieved.

We are committed to continuing our constructive engagement in this debate and would welcome the opportunity to meet you or your colleagues in the New Year to discuss how to take forward this commitment to address homelessness.

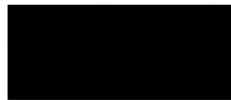
We thank you the attention you will be giving to this letter, and in doing so, for the consideration you are giving to our members' work and experience. We remain at your disposal for any further information on our work.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Heather Roy
Secretary general

EURODIACONIA
Rue Joseph II, 166
1000 Brussels



Mr. Mike Stannett
Officer for EU Affairs

THE SALVATION ARMY
EU Affairs Office
34, Pl du Nv Marché aux Grains
1000 Brussels



Mr. Freek Spinnewijn
Director

FEANTSA
Chaussée de Louvain 194,
1210 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode



[Eurodiaconia](#) is a European network of social and health care organisations founded in the Christian faith and promoting social justice. Together our membership represents the needs and unique experiences of 45 national and regional organisations in 32 countries, providing social and health services to the most vulnerable across Europe.



[The Salvation Army](#), motivated by its Christian faith to do justice, has a long history of working with people who are vulnerable, marginalized and exploited across the world. The Salvation Army works in 128 countries worldwide, including in 22 of the 28 EU Member States, providing social services, poverty relief, social inclusion activities, refugee and migration support, and anti-human trafficking services. The EU Affairs Office provides an EU-level platform for The Salvation Army to relate to the EU and to engage in advocacy, representing the organization as well as the people we serve.

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. We are the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. Our ultimate goal is an end to homelessness in Europe. Established in 1989, FEANTSA brings together non-profit services that support homeless people in Europe. [We have over 130 member organisations from 30 countries, including 28 Member States.](#) Most are national or regional federations.

^[1] FEANTSA's annual Overview of Housing Exclusion & Homelessness report <http://www.feantsa.org/en/report/2017/03/21/the-second-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe-2017>

^[2] Homelessness prevention programme: <http://www.salvationarmy.eu/eaaffairs/Goodpractice>

^[3] See for instance '[Frostschutzengel](#)' project helping homeless people in Berlin, financed in part through the FEAD <https://www.eurodiaconia.org/2017/11/frostschutzengel-project-helps-homeless-people-in-berlin-this-winter/>