



European Parliament Calls for End to Street Homelessness by 2015

Earlier this month, 438 Members of the European Parliament representing all EU countries and the whole political spectrum, called upon Member States and the EU institutions to take urgent action to end street homelessness by 2015.

FEANTSA and its members welcome the adoption of the [Written Declaration 111/2007 on ending street homelessness](#), which sends out a clear political message that the issue of homelessness is an urgent one across Europe and must be tackled in a determined and focused way. The Declaration further calls on the development of a European framework definition of homelessness, the gathering of reliable statistical data, and the elaboration of 'winter emergency plans' as part of a wider homelessness strategy.

FEANTSA believes that the adoption of the Declaration is an important step in the fight against homelessness, giving renewed momentum for follow up initiatives. It also displays a shift in approach; rather than merely *managing* homelessness, there is now the political impetus to actually *end* homelessness. This echoes developments that have already taken place in a number of European countries, such as Scotland and Finland, which have pledged to end the problem and have implemented measures to do so.

FEANTSA calls for this commitment to be debated in national parliaments and for concrete steps for ending homelessness to be elaborated, both on a national and EU level. Now is the time to act. Says Freek Spinnewijn, Director of FEANTSA, 'this is a unique opportunity for Member States and the EU institutions to show that they are serious about creating a more social Europe.'

For more information visit FEANTSA's [website](#).

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Notes for editors:

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless. Established in 1989, FEANTSA represents today more than 100 organisations working with people experiencing homelessness in 30 European countries which provide a wide range of services to people experiencing homelessness, including housing, health and employment support. More information is available on: www.feantsa.org