

It takes a city, a country and Europe
It takes a roof, a house, a home
It takes all of us
Together we can end homelessness

**Call to maintain ending homelessness as a priority beyond 2030
from European cities to the EU, the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness and the future
2024 Belgian presidency of the Council of the EU**

Dear President of the European Council Mr Michel,
Dear Ministers member of the European Council,
Dear Members of the Employment and Social Affairs Council of the European Parliament,
Dear Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Mr Schmit,
Dear President of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness Mr Leterme, and all Members
of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness,
Dear Belgian Prime Minister Mr De Croo,
Dear Belgian Minister of Pensions and Social Integration, in charge of Persons with Disabilities,
Combatting Poverty and Beliris Ms Lalieux
Dear Representatives of the 2024 Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

As European cities faced with rising homelessness, we first and foremost take this opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the crucial efforts the EU has made in recent years to tackle this issue together with us.

You have adopted SDG Objectives on eradicating extreme poverty and on access for all to affordable and adequate housing, requiring an end to homelessness. You have also explicitly addressed ending homelessness in the EU Urban Agenda's Urban Poverty Partnership.
You successfully established the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness in June 2021, as part of the action plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights. A paramount achievement in this was the signing of the Lisbon Declaration on addressing homelessness by every single Member State. Recently, you took the next step and approved the Platform's first workplan 2022-2024 for which we want to congratulate you.

The cities, we have also been taking responsibility and playing our part. Many of us have already pledged support to Principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights "Housing and assistance for the homeless" with the support of Eurocities' initiative 'Inclusive Cities for All: Social Rights in My City'. A number of cities are exchanging knowledge and working on local action plans to end homelessness thanks to the opportunities offered by the EU programme URBACT, through the ROOF network in particular.

There is an unprecedented focus on ending homelessness and a concerted effort at local, national and EU level. With this letter we now call upon you to build on the momentum that has been created. Please put ending homelessness as priority on the EU's longer-term agenda, beyond 2030. Elaborate a plan beyond 2024 to reach functional zero in Europe. Guide the EU Member States in developing their national strategies and roadmap towards functional zero. Facilitate cities' actions by making EU resources easily accessible to tackle homelessness on a structural basis.

Let us join forces and cooperate across all government levels so that together we achieve giving all our citizens access to a fair and dignified life.

#endinghomelessness #ROOFTOPEU2022



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