



Cities, local authorities and social housing providers to be allowed to use EU funds in favour of marginalised groups, including Roma people

On **Wednesday 10th February** the European Parliament is due to vote a report by MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij on a proposal of modification of the European Regional Development Fund regulation with the objectives to grant the eligibility of housing interventions in favour of marginalised communities in all EU Member States.

As the latest report of Social situation in the EU shows¹, affordability, adequacy and quality of housing are major preoccupations for most European citizens. But they are vital questions for the most disadvantaged of our fellow citizens – those who face extreme forms of deprivation and marginalisation. Local authorities, major cities in the EU, together with housing providers are in the frontline to cope with those situations which have often worsened over the past few months with the socio-economic effects of the crisis.

That is why, **CEMR** (the Council of European Municipalities and Regions), **EUROCITIES** (the Network of major European cities) and **CECODHAS-Housing Europe** (the European social housing network) welcome the report of M. Lambert van Nistelrooij which favours the use of Structural funds to invest in housing, within the framework of an integrated approach, for marginalised communities, including Roma people, in all EU 27 Members States. This will clearly help local authorities, together with other stakeholders, in urban but also rural areas to carry out the necessary investments to provide marginalised communities not only with adequate homes but also with the necessary long-term social support to them.

All three networks call Members of the European Parliament to adopt the report by MEP van Nistelrooij on Wednesday 10th February during the votes scheduled at 12:00

“Until now, only the 12 most recent EU Member States were eligible for EU funding for housing interventions in favour of marginalised communities. This does not make sense. It is vital that communities, such as the Roma, can benefit from European regional funding for housing in all regions of the EU”, said CEMR secretary general **Frédéric Vallier**.

‘Our cities are increasingly faced with the challenge of ensuring access to decent housing, especially for marginalised groups at risk of social exclusion’ said **Paul Bevan**, EURO CITIES Secretary General, *‘We support the idea of strengthening the role that ERDF, and thus Europe, can play in tackling the critical problem of housing exclusion’*

CECODHAS President **David Orr** stressed: *“Giving the opportunity to each European region to invest in social capital and social infrastructure (including affordable housing) through the Structural Funds is an efficient way to guarantee against social exclusion and create socially, economically and environmentally sustainable communities across the European Union”.*

Being aware of the crucial role of partnership on the ground in order to make the difference for marginalised communities, the 3 organisations envisage future cooperation on this issue to turn those new opportunities into real achievements.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=696&furtherNews=yes>