



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland- May 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

## EU Anti-Poverty Strategy - A Missed Opportunity to Eradicate Poverty, without Dedicated Funding

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### Speaking in response to today's launch of the EU's first Anti-Poverty Strategy, EAPN Ireland's Director Dr. James Casey said;

"We welcome the introduction of the first EU anti-poverty strategy, but still fundamental concerns remain to its projected effectiveness. The ongoing permacrisis and cost of living increases across the union persist and it is disappointing that the EU has decreased social inclusion spending in responses to geopolitical concerns. As we move to a multipolar world, it is crucial that we provide finance and Social security for the citizens of the EU at the most basic level - poverty is not an individual issue - it is rooted in systematic dysfunctionality. What we build now and how we treat our citizens and people will be the foundations for values we bring forward into the future. This requires real investment, co-operation and equity of opportunity for all."

### EAPN's Policy & Communications Officer, Clare Daly continued;

"The EU Anti-Poverty Strategy has been much anticipated and badly needed. While recognising that today is an historic day to put this issue centre stage, it is disappointing that many of the measures needed to make it a reality, such as adequate funding, the participation of people experiencing poverty and minimum standards for National Anti-Poverty Strategies, appear to be lacking. The call for a Minimum Income, must be pursued as a matter of urgency by exploring the possibility of binding mechanisms in this regard. We did not see meaningful attention in the strategy for a multi-dimensional approach requiring a fairer distribution of income, stronger public services, and access to quality employment, - the latter being urgently necessary as over 10% of EU workers, (as in Ireland) at risk of poverty."

There is no point in the Commission talking about housing exclusion, child poverty and the rights of disabled people, while simultaneously pursuing policies which have aggravated those problems. The biggest threat to the security of Europe, lies in the inequality of our societies which is at record levels. Previous targets of reducing the numbers in poverty by 15million by 2030, and eradicating it by 2050, are nowhere near being achieved. We are very glad that the first EU Anti-Poverty Strategy has been undertaken, but it needs a lot more meat on the bones if it is to have any impact. That gauntlet has been thrown down to Ireland's Presidency and we really hope it is picked up."

## FOR A EUROPE FREE FROM POVERTY, EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY NEEDS

- Targeted Funding to Eradicate Poverty
- Fiscal flexibility allowed for defence expenditure should also apply to social issues
- Exploration of Binding Mechanisms for a Minimum Income
- Meaningful Involvement of people experiencing poverty



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