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## SOCIAL CONVERGENCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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House of the European Union, Riga, November 12, 2015

### **Meeting of NGOs “People Experiencing Poverty Speak for Themselves”**

#### **RESOLUTION**

The participants of the meeting organized by EAPN-Latvia (the Latvian Anti-Poverty Network) under the auspices of the European Anti-Poverty Network PeP (People Experiencing Poverty) Programme

#### **REQUEST**

- 1) to enact a guaranteed per capita monthly minimum income in the amount of EUR 370.00 as of January 1, 2016, thus promoting a humane standard of living; additionally, to shut down manipulations with the minimum wage limit favoured by bureaucratic institutions;
- 2) to uphold the objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and evaluate critically the actions of the government institutions responsible for utilizing the funding from the European Social Fund, with a goal to campaign for directing no less than 20% of the ESF funding towards real reduction of poverty of the people of Latvia instead of directing that funding towards the development of national and local infrastructure; to keep the society informed on the results of utilizing the ESF funding towards reduction of poverty;
- 3) to assess critically the significance of the State Employment Agency of Latvia in fostering real employment, especially among young people, taking into account the demand of the groups of the unemployed and the quality and accessibility of training and practice, as well as their sustainability; to enact and expand the opportunities of NGOs to receive funding from the ESF and to create new jobs, thus fostering the involvement into the job market of young people as well as well-educated people with extensive work and life experience;
- 4) to assess critically the work of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia regarding their measures taken to promote public health and to revoke the high co-payments for medical manipulations and drugs, as well as to ensure opportunities of government-financed diagnostics of illness crucial to people on low incomes – seniors, the unemployed, large families, single mothers, immigrants etc.;
- 5) to initiate discussion on inclusion of the time period dedicated to raising and taking care of a child/children in the length of employment of the mother, thus ensuring the mother and her family a guaranteed income and an opportunity of work-life balance equal to the rest of the society and facilitating the demographic boom long awaited in a country with low birth rates;

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- 6) to activate and stimulate adoption of a law on social entrepreneurship as of July 1, 2016, and to monitor the utilization of the funding of the EU Structural Funds for the development of such social entrepreneurship that unequivocally supports groups of people facing social exclusion; to define in the law on social entrepreneurship the characteristics of a social enterprise and regulations of its operations, and to prevent any chances of national or local authorities to pose as social entrepreneurs and operate in the status of social entrepreneurs;
- 7) to revise the structure of social partnership in Latvia, and, in consideration of the position of the Latvian Presidency of the EU on the European Union as a social union, and considering that Latvia is among the poorer countries in the EU, whose interests in the institutions of the EU and in Latvia regarding prevention of poverty are advocated by the network of NGOs "EAPN-Latvia, to enact social partnership with EAPN-Latvia by expanding the present National Tripartite Cooperation Council of Latvia as of January 1, 2016.

This resolution is submitted to Valdis Dombrovskis – Vice-President of the European Commission, EAPN Bureau, President of the Republic of Latvia, MPs of the Republic of Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia, and Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia, as well as distributed to the NGOs, municipalities, and the media of Latvia.

Resolution adopted in Riga on November 12, 2015 in a meeting of 30 representatives of 27 NGOs and six representatives of six municipalities (see the list of participants in Annex to the Resolution).

Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Leader of the Board

PeP

EUROPEAN MEETINGS OF  
PEOPLE  
EXPERIENCING  
POVERTY  
LISTEN TO THE EXPERIENCES OF POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND INEQUALITIES



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### EAPN-Latvia Meeting “People Experiencing Poverty Speak for Themselves” List of Participants

1. Silvija Šimfa, MP of Latvia
2. EAPN-Latvia
3. Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments
4. Latvian Red Cross National Society
5. Latvian Federation of Seniors
6. Cooperation Network of the NGOs of the Women of Latvia
7. Institute for Women’s Rights
8. IWO – International Women’s Organisation
9. Baltic Alliance of Innovation
10. Alliance of Ukrainians of Latvia
11. Society “Skalbes”
12. Association “PINS”
13. Association “DONUM ANIMUS”
14. Centre for Large Families “Family Support”
15. Association of Large Families of Latvia
16. Centre for Social Support and Help “Veiksme”
17. Association for the Development of the Latgale District of Riga
18. Riga Active Seniors Alliance
19. Victory Foundation
20. Foundation “Franchising in the Baltics”
21. Ģertrūde Foundation
22. Association for Diabetes in Liepaja
23. Centre for Meetings of Germans of Liepaja
24. Association “Jumītis” of Rucava
25. Association of Women’s Rights “Tumes mežroze”
26. Association “Skaista” of Krāslava
27. Association “Sasaiste” of Jēkabpils
28. Association of the Disabled People of Dobele
29. Riga Social Services
30. Welfare Administration of Jūrmala
31. Jelgava City Council
32. Jelgava Administration of Social Affairs
33. Olaine Municipality
34. Dobele Municipality

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laila'.

Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Leader of the Board