

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001367/25
to the Commission**

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(2 April 2025)

Subject: Evaluation and future of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness

The European Platform on Combating Homelessness has been an important tool for exchanging good practices between the Member States, with the Finnish model serving as a successful reference. However, homelessness remains a serious problem in the EU, with the number of homeless people having increased in several Member States in recent years ⁽¹⁾.

Despite the commitment made in the Lisbon Declaration ⁽²⁾ to eradicate homelessness by 2030, there does not yet appear to be a clear action plan to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of the platform.

An evaluation of the platform's functioning was scheduled for this year ⁽³⁾, but there are concerns that this process could slow down its activities or risk its permanence. Given that the European Pillar of Social Rights recognises housing as a fundamental right ⁽⁴⁾ and that the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) finances measures to combat homelessness ⁽⁵⁾, it is essential to ensure that the progress made is not lost and that cooperation among the Member States is strengthened.

Therefore:

1. Can the Commission outline the current status of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness, and its expectations for the platform's future?
2. What specific measures are being considered to strengthen the platform's role and ensure the consolidation and continuation of the progress achieved so far?

Supporter ⁽⁶⁾

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2025)

The European Platform on Combating Homelessness was launched by the Lisbon Declaration in 2021 as a framework of cooperation, knowledge building and mutual learning, coordinated and facilitated by the Commission.

In the context of the Platform, the Commission supports various ongoing projects and activities in the area of homelessness which strengthen the evidence base on the extent and nature of homelessness, provide concrete policy guidance to policy-makers ⁽¹⁾ and enhance capabilities at national and local level.

The work programme of the Platform, adopted in February 2022, guided its activities for the period 2022-2024 ⁽²⁾. A new work programme is planned to be discussed by its members in view of its adoption in June 2025.

During the next phase, the Platform is meant to continue supporting national, regional and local authorities to develop integrated, housing-led strategies, monitor their actual impact and optimize the use of funding sources, as the European Social Fund Plus, to implement sustainable solutions.

Also, the Platform's work in relation to the scope, the drivers and effective policy responses should contribute to the preparation of future EU initiatives related to homelessness such as the new Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy and the European Affordable Housing Plan.

¹ FEANTSA and the Foundation Abbé Pierre, 'Fifth Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe', July 2020, https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Resources/resources/Rapport_Europe_2020_GB.pdf.

² Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combating Homelessness, 21 June 2021, <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=24120&langId=en>.

³ European Commission, 'Roadmap for the Evaluation of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness', 2024.

⁴ European Commission, 'European Pillar of Social Rights', principle 19: 'Housing and assistance for the homeless', 2023, https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013, OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1057/oj>.

⁶ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Vicent Marzá Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)

⁽¹⁾ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Policy Toolkit on homelessness, launched in December 2024 provides guidance for policy-makers to prevent people from becoming homeless, support people who are experiencing homelessness, and provide sustainable pathways out of homelessness. Accessible here https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-toolkit-to-combat-homelessness_0fec780e-en.html.

⁽²⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4c863f95-cf93-4581-8b36-33259f9e8663_en?filename=UDW%20TRW1_ex_summary.pdf.

Since its launch the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness has evolved into an impactful initiative, illustrated by the adoption of national strategies in several Member States.

The Commission remains fully committed to further strengthening its added value and thus reinforce concerted responses at all levels to effectively address the most extreme manifestation of poverty and social exclusion.
