



Getting to grips with energy poverty *From EU to Cities to Homes*

Date: 24th March 2010

Time: 9:00- 13:00

Venue: **European Commission Charlemagne Building (Room S4) – Bruxelles**

Interpretation: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish

A joint seminar organized by CECODHAS and EAPN during the 2010 European Sustainable Energy Week and at the occasion of the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion

Draft programme

While the European Union is completing its single energy market, recent studies suggest that energy poverty is a situation an increasing number of households are facing. Energy poverty implies the combination of 3 factors: low household income, poor heating and insulation standards and unaffordable energy prices. The economic crisis and structurally increasing energy prices will negatively act on those factors. The number of people suffering from energy poverty might increase and beyond their inability to pay energy bills, they face high levels of debt, disconnection, physical and mental health problems and social exclusion (eviction). Solutions are being developed on the ground, the most successful being the ones developed within an integrated approach, putting together all actors working on all factors of energy poverty.

What are the figures about fuel poverty? How can local stakeholders break this vicious circle? What are the replicable solutions developed at the local level? What are the European levers to promote them?

09.00 -10.00 – Energy poverty: Facts and figures

Introduction and chair: M. Ludo Horemans (President of EAPN)

- The perspective of people experiencing energy poverty, from EAPN Belgium “Energy and Poverty” working group
- The mechanisms behind energy poverty, by *Dr. Brenda Boardman, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University*
- Reality of energy poverty in 5 countries: presentation from the EPEE project, by *M. Pierre Nolay, Project coordinator*

10.00 -11.30 – Operational solutions against fuel poverty

Introduction and chair: M. Luciano Caffini (Vice-President of CECODHAS)

- A national action plan on energy poverty: the case of France, by *Ms. Véronique Stella, Foundation Abbé-Pierre*
- A regional strategy: the Energy poverty forum in Scotland, by *M. Graham Blount, the Chair of the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum*
- The role of smart metering in an integrated approach: 'DEHEMS - Save Your Energy', by *Ms. Claire Hardwick, Family Housing Birmingham*
- From energy providers to energy advisers for vulnerable groups: the example of GPL providers in remote areas, by *M. Paul Voss, AEGPL*

Questions and Answers with the audience

11.30 -13.00 – European answers: the drive for an integrated approach

Introduction and chair: Ms. Barbara Steenbergen (International Union of Tenants)

Panel discussion with:

- Ms. Karima Delli, MEP, REGI & EMPL Committees
- M. Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Energy (tbc)
- Ms. Sian Jones, European Anti-Poverty Network

Concluding remarks by M. Paul Magnette, Belgian Minister for Climate and Energy

13.00 – Networking lunch

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Registration:

You will need to create your own account on this website in order to register to the event:

<http://www.eusew.eu/login.cfm>