What social platform did in 2010

2010 saw Social Platform confront four major challenges:

1. Responding to the social consequences of the economic crisis

With 116 million people socially excluded and austerity measures in place across the EU, we alerted national ministers at the informal EPSCO councils, MEPs and Commission officials of the realities on the ground as reported by our members: increasing over-indebtedness, reduced access to public services and housing, and social protection systems under threat.

To counterbalance these effects, we made several proposals such as to design and implement budget consolidation in line with Article 9 of the Lisbon Treaty, and ensure the adequacy of minimum income schemes.

2. Strengthening the social dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy

In February we launched a campaign calling on the EU and member states to make eradicating poverty and social exclusion an explicit objective of the new Europe 2020 strategy, among other proposals. The campaign led us to meet with key figures from all EU institutions: President Van Rompuy, Commissioner Andor, Commission Secretary-General Catherine Day, and EP Vice President Isabelle Durant. Our efforts paid off: in June, for the first time, heads of state agreed to make poverty reduction one of the five EU targets and adopted an integrated guideline dedicated to the objective.

We then focused our campaign on implementation, making five concrete proposals to President Barroso for an effective European Platform Against Poverty. In October, together with our Spring Alliance partners, we asked decision makers to fund actions for an inclusive society and quality jobs in the EU budgets for the coming years.

3. Advancing EU laws for the protection of people

We fought for a better maternity leave directive, with 24 weeks of fully paid leave and strong legal protection against dismissal. Despite opposition from the Commission and the Council, in October the EP courageously voted for it, supporting most of our proposals. We also pushed hard for the Council to adopt an anti-discrimination law in goods and services, meeting the Spanish and Belgian equality ministers to provide our expertise and make our case.

Unfortunately, both of these proposals are currently being deferred by the Council - so the battle goes on.

Wrote to EU heads of

Wrote to EU

social exclusion in the EU, together with European Year NGO coalition (Jan 19)

> Participated at inaugural conference of European Year Against Poverty in Madrid (Jan 22)

Wrote to EP's EMPL committee, calling fo it to vote in favour of maternity leave with

Wrote to Commission to request a public consultation on civil dialogue (Jan 27)

state with proposals to improve the Europe 202 strategy, specifically on social priorities, poverty, employment and civil dialogue (Feb 9)

with Fiona

topic (Feb 11)

Organised seminar on Care policies for its members Williams, author o a UN paper on the

Held briefing on employment and the European Employment

for a stronger social dimension to the Europe 2020 strategy (Mar 1)

> ublished booklet with 14 proposals on now to establish an effective dialogue between the EU and

Met Commissioner Andor to push

Met Isabelle Durant, EP Vice President, to present proposals to strengthen the Europe 2020 strategy together with Spring Alliance (Mar 2)

> Held training for members on first aid at work, with the Red Cross (Mar 4)

Wrote to President Barroso and commissioners with proposals to strengthen the Europe 2020 integrated quidelines (Apr 19)



Held General Assembly in Brussels, with Catherine Day, Secretary-General of the Commission, debating the Europe 2020 strategy



Welcomed Valentina Caimi and Annica Ryngbeck as Policy Ifficers (May 2, 17)



Met President Van Rompuy, together with its Spring Alliance partners, to put forward its view on the Europe 2020 strategy and the integrated guidelines (May 11

Met EP's EMPL 2020 strategy (Jun 1)



committee to restate its proposals on the Europe

ministers of Organized briefing with employment and Jeremy Kendall, author social affairs, calling of The Handbook of for the adoption of an European third sector anti-discrimination policy, to present his law consistent with findings on the CSO the race equality policy process (Jun 2) directive (Jun 2)

as Acting Director, replacing Roshan Di Puppo who went on maternity leave (Jun 1)

Welcomed Pierre Baussand

Wrote to President Van Rompuy and EU heads of state to reiterate its proposals for the Europe 2020 strategy (Jun 10)

informal EPSC0 counci in Brussels with proposals to address the crisis with effective social policies (Jul 7-9)

Met Nikiforos

Diamandouros,

European

Ombudsman,

to present its

civil dialogue

position on

Addressed

in Brussels on the Europe 2020 strategy, presenting proposals for an effective European Platform Against Poverty (Sep 14)

Spoke at a Presidency conference



Organised study visit to Budapest on the anti-discrimination to strengthen links between local directive to discuss access CSOs and EU networks: 55 people to housing (Oct 15) attend from 41 CSOs (Sep 15-16)

Wrote to MEPs, calling for them Wrote to Council, calling for it to support the EP's report on the maternity leave directive (Nov 3) to vote for a maternity leave directive with 24 weeks of full salary and strong legal protection against dismissal (Oct 5,7)

Wrote to President Barroso with

the Spring Alliance, asking him

to ensure that the EU budgets

for the coming years prioritise

inclusive societies and quality

Met Belgian Presidency

jobs (Oct 14)

October

Spoke at opening of the 9th

Roundtable on Poverty,

on the implementation

of the active inclusion

recommendation and

the development of the

Poverty (Oct 18-19)

European Platform Against

Organised its annual conference on Care to develop a common foundation to improve Care policies; 130 people from EU institutions, national and EU-level CSOs attended (Nov 4-5)

Engage (Nov 11)

Spoke at opening of the Fourth Equality Summit in Brussels,

restating why the EU needs an anti-discrimination law

consistent with the race equality directive (Nov 14-16)

Met Belgian Vice

Milquet to discuss

Prime Minister

progress on the

maternity leave

directive (Nov 18)

the EU budgets for the coming years, the future of SSGI and the Europe 2020 strategy (Dec 1)

members (Dec 1)

Published issue 7 of

Spoke at EP conference on the future expenditure as an investment (Dec 9)

Met Belgian Presidency to assess progress made on the antidiscrimination directive (Dec 9)

Wrote to Spanish **EU Presidency** with proposals for a strong antidiscrimination

(Jan 28) directive (Jan 28) Met EU employment and social

affairs ministers in Barcelona

to put forward its view on the



WG WG MC

Published Held screening issue 5 of of social Engage documentary (Feb 16)



Wrote to EP's FEMM committee, calling for it to vote in favour of 24week maternity leave with full salary and strong legal protection

Held presentation on a project to set up a common database of EU contacts between

members (Mar 16)

Wrote to Council asking it to commit to reduce poverty by 25% by the end of the decade (Mar 22)

against dismissal (Feb 19)

March

Spoke at a hearing of EP's EMPL committee on the role of minimum income to combat poverty (Mar 17)

> Welcomed Bartek Lech as Policv Officer (Mar 23)

Organised meeting between its members and Xavier Prats-Monné (Director, Commission) to discuss the European Employment Strategy (Mar 30)

Velcomed Catriona

Williams as its Vice President, replacing Mvria Vassiliadou



Forum for Muslim member (Apr 22)

Published Annual Report

Met Spanish Equality minister Wrote to Bibiano Aido to discuss

Fundamental Rights Agency with progress on anti proposals to ensure discrimination compliance with law (May 11) fundamental rights on governance issues (May 19)

Published issue 6 of (May 25)

Engage



(May 27)

Participated in Commission working group on discrimination in financial services

Held bi-annual meeting with Vice Wrote to President President Reding and Commissioner Andor discussing the Europe 2020 for an effective strategy and fundamental rights European Platform



(Jun 24)

Director of the Fundamental Rights Barroso with proposals Agency, to outline its proposals on governance of the FRA (Jun 23) Against Poverty (Jun 22

European Integration proposals on migration and framework for integration policies (Jun social services 24-25)

Organised meeting for Forum's annual meeting, outlining members with Proinsias De Rossa, EP rapporteur on the future of social

services (Jun 28)

WG MAC

Met Morten Kiaerum.



Wrote to President Barroso, calling for member states to halt expulsions of Roma people (Sep 28)

> Marched alongside trade unions at the ETUC protest in Brussels against EU austerity plans, calling on decision makers to analyze the social consequences and prioritize quality employment (Sep 29)

> > Spoke at Third Forum on Social Services of General Interest, calling on the Commission to use the specificities of SSGI when amending existing EU rules (Oct 26-27)

Organised briefing or SGI and the Lisbon

Treaty with Stephane Rodrigues, legal expert of the Belgian Presidency (Nov 18)

> Participated in "Human Ring" protest at the EP to urge governments for a more sustainable and equitable response to the crisis (Nov 19



Spring Alliance, calling for the next EU budget to create a smart, sustainable, and inclusive EU economy (Dec 13



Organised study visit to Riga

to strengthen links between

(Nov 24-25)

local CSOs and EU networks;

70 people attend from 53 CSOs

Organised a meeting to discuss contact database project with

Met MEPs from five political groups to discuss

of social services, emphasising social

Met Commissioner Barnier to restate Addressed its proposals from the Third Forum on SSGI (Nov 19)

December Council as part of the

contribution to EF rapporteur on the future of social services, calling for them to use the specificities of SSGI when amending existing rules (Dec 15)

Sent written

4. Improving care policies and ensuring the quality of social services

Continuing our work on demographic and social change, in November we held our annual conference on Care, bringing together experts and decision makers from all EU institutions to establish a common foundation for Care policies that respect the rights of individuals, guarantee access to services and promote social inclusion. This was a vital step towards developing a set of proposals for improved Care policies, which we'll publish in 2011.



Social Platform's management committee (Dirk Jarré, Heather Roy, Conny Reuter, Patrick De Bucquois, Catriona Williams, Michel Mercadié)

with Pierre Baussand.

Director

We also continued working on social services of general interest (SSGI). We participated in the Third Forum on SSGI and several other events, calling on the Commission to use the specificities of SSGI when amending existing rules.

In 2011 we'll continue our engagement to ensure that the EU's social policy priorities are suitably funded in its budgets. We'll be keeping a close eye on how the Europe 2020 strategy is implemented – particularly the poverty, employment and education targets – and move forward with our campaigns on the maternity leave and equality laws. We'll also focus on ensuring that the inclusive objective of the Europe 2020 strategy is reflected when the Single Market Act is adopted.

We'd like to thank our friends and partners for a year of solid collaboration which brought tangible results. We look forward to building on that work to make the EU more social and fairer for all.

Yours.

Conny Reuter, President

Pierre Baussand, Acting Director

PNBaussard.

Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 43 pan-European networks of NGOs, Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

Contact:



T: +32 2 511 37 14 • E: platform@socialplatform.org
A: Square de Meeûs 18, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
W: www.socialplatform.org

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