



Open Letter to Ministers regarding the conference “*Minimum income, towards a safety net for all*”

18, January 2024

Dear Ministers,

One year on from the adoption of the Council Recommendation on Minimum Income ensuring active inclusion, Social Platform and our members are extremely concerned about how little progress has been made in improving the adequacy, coverage and take-up of minimum income schemes in Europe.

As you meet today in Brussels we urge you to recognise that **a framework directive on adequate minimum income schemes is a vital next step for tackling poverty** and the only way to guarantee protection for those most in need of support across the EU.

As we face the ever-worsening cost of living crisis and the economic aftershocks of the pandemic and war in Europe, now is the time to take action and demand concrete measures for the people of Europe experiencing poverty and social exclusion. Currently, no minimum income scheme in Europe guarantees that recipients live above the poverty line, and up to 50% of people do not access the benefits to which they are entitled.

At the Porto Social Summit in 2021, all EU Member States committed to reducing the number of people in poverty by 15 million by 2030. Yet in the past three years there has been no tangible progress in the fight to reduce poverty. Minimum income schemes can play a vital role in helping us reach these targets as one of the last defenses against poverty and an important tool to foster social inclusion for all.

As we approach the European elections in June 2024, it is more important than ever to show the difference that the European Union can make in people’s lives and the tangible results that social policies can achieve. **Over 80% of Europeans want their national governments to take further measures to reduce income inequalities.**

An EU framework directive on adequate minimum income is necessary to ensure that we see the progress that is needed by 2030. We hope that we can count on your support to champion a directive and bring everyone over the poverty line.

Yours sincerely,

Laura de Bonfils

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura de Bonfils", written in a cursive style.

Secretary General of Social Platform