



APPEAL TO THE STATES GENERAL FOR THE RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING AND LIVING CONDITIONS .

18 million people in Europe live in poor housing conditions, more than 3 million are homeless.

Currently, even people in regular employment cannot or are no longer able to find somewhere to live. Hundreds of thousands of people have been evicted, and even more are living under the threat of eviction.

These terrible figures are increasing every day. A disastrous situation is being created, one which will have long-lasting consequences, turning the right to housing into an impossible dream, in particular for immigrants, single women and people in an insecure situation.

The whole planet is affected, from the Spanish speaking areas of cities in the United States to the shanty towns in Brazil, from to the edge of ring roads to squats which burn like matches.

Europe is not immune from these scandals.

The fact that housing policy has been put under liberal supervision by the international pension funds is causing prices to shoot up, and is contributing to the eviction of the population.

It is neither the result of a curse, nor fate.

We, the managers of associations for housing, tenants, the homeless, public administrators, members of cooperatives, researchers and volunteers are aiming to **develop a large movement at a European-wide level to exchange our experiences and to propose and devise other alternatives.**

Therefore we are organising the first General European States for the right to decent housing and living conditions, and local authorities.

Together we are realising a shared dream: housing and local authorities for everyone, everywhere. Meeting at **the European Social Forum (Athens 4th – 7th May 2006)** to look at the current situation and decide on the next steps together.

March 2006

Signatures:

Belgium: Jean Peeters, Front des sans-abri

France

- Bernard Birsinger, mayor Bobigny, president ANECR (Association nationale des élus communistes et républicains)
- Yves Cabannes, UN-Habitat AGFE convener
- Marie-Noëlle Lienemann, former minister on housing policies of France
- Jean-Pierre Giacomo, general secretary Confédération National du Logement
- Patrick Braouzec, President de la Plaine Commune de Saint Denis, FAL

Italy

- Alex Zanotelli, Combonian missionary
- Vincenzo Simoni, general secretary Unione Inquilini
- Graziano Zoni, president Emmaus Italia
- Damiano Stufara, assessore alle Politiche Sociali e Abitative della Regione Umbria
- Luisa Calimani, rete architetti e urbanisti Città amica

Macedonia: Maja Dilberova, vice president Union for protection of tenants "MakeDom"

Romania: Mihai Mereuta, president Habitat League of Romania

Switzerland

- Sylvie Lacroux, former director, UN-HABITAT Geneva Office

Serbia-Montenegro

- Marina Ragush, president Association of Tenants from Serbia and Montenegro

Spain

- Francisco Caño, president Federacion Regional Asociaciones Vecinos Madrid
- Isabel López Aulestia, responsable Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Sociales Gobierno Vasco

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