

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



A rights-based approach to guarantee the right to housing in Europe: between policy and (good) practice

6th Meeting

of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform

on Social and Economic Rights

16 May 2018

Titanic Hotel

8 Queens Rd

Belfast, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

The 6th Meeting of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights is organised at the initiative of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. In order to continue the approach launched in Riga and ensure continuity with the meeting on legal protection of Roma and Travellers' housing/accommodation of 15 May 2018, the meeting will focus on the right to housing (in particular Articles 16 and 31 of the European Social Charter). It aims at familiarising participants with the conclusions and decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights related to this right and at considering indicators on this right. It also aims at continuing the discussion on the European Pillar of Social Rights by examining how it can be linked to human rights standards and elevated to more than a political declaration regarding the right to housing. Finally, participants will identify further capacity building needs to be followed and elaborate the outline for the next meeting.

FORMAT / WORKING LANGUAGE(S)

The meeting will be held in plenary. The working language will be English.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

9am–9.30am *Registration*

9.30am–10am **Opening Session**

Welcome:

Les ALLAMBY, Chief Commissioner for the Northern Ireland
Human Rights Commission (NIHRC)

Danuta WIŚNIEWSKA-CAZALS, Department of the European
Social Charter, Council of Europe

Ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing

10am–10.50am Moderator: Danuta WIŚNIEWSKA-CAZALS, Department of the
European Social Charter, Council of Europe

Protection of the right to housing in the light of the decisions and
conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights

Lauri LEPPIK, Professor, Chair of Social Policy, Tallinn
University, former General Rapporteur of the
European Committee of Social Rights

Discussion

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) v. Ireland
Complaint No 110/2014

*The complainant organisation alleged that Irish law, policy and
practices on social housing do not comply with European
housing, social protection and anti-discrimination standards. The
European Committee of Social Rights adopted its decision on the
merits on 12 May 2017.*

Speakers:

Cecilia FORRESTAL, Community Action Network (CAN), Ireland

Laurence BOND, Chair of the ENNHRI Working Group on
economic, social and cultural rights, Director of
the Irish Human Rights and Equality
Commission (IHREC)

Discussion

10.50am–11.05am *Coffee break*

11.05am–12.30am Indicators on housing rights - Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights

Moderator: Debbie KOHNER, Secretary General, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions

Speaker: Heather WILLIAMS, Lead of the measurement framework, Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

Discussion, including sharing examples of good practice on the indicators used by Platform Partners for monitoring human rights, in particular housing rights, as well as monitoring inequality in Europe

12.30am-2.15pm Lunch break

Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension under the European Pillar of Social Rights

Moderator: Ursula TILL-TENTSCHERT, Senior Programme Manager - Statistics and Surveys, Freedoms and Justice Department, FRA

2.15pm–3.45pm Monitoring the performance of the States in the field of social rights: Social Scoreboard and the European Semester

Speaker: Krzysztof Stefan ISZKOWSKI, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Employment and Social Aspects of European Semester, European Commission

Discussion

The European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights: finding a synergy

Speaker: Tanya MONTANARI, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe

Discussion

3.45pm–4pm Coffee break

Next steps for the Platform

Moderator: Tanya MONTANARI, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe

4pm–5pm

Contribution of national equality bodies and human rights institutions to promoting the European Social Charter and the conclusions and decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights

Working methods, definition of capacity building needs of Platform Partners and outline for the next meeting of the Platform

General discussion

5pm–5.15pm

Conclusions of the meeting

by Katrine STEINFELD, Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies