

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**A multidimensional approach to guarantee the right to housing in Europe:
designing effective tools and concrete ways forward**

7th meeting

of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform

on Social and Economic Rights

28 November 2018

Palais de l'Europe, Room 14

Council of Europe

Strasbourg, France

RATIONALE

Building on the feedback from the Platform members gathered at the last meeting in Belfast (16 May 2018), NHRIs and NEBs have asked in particular to:

- broaden their knowledge on the application and implementation of the European Social Charter to support and strengthen the protection of economic and social rights at the national level;
- receive specific and actionable guidance on the effective engagement with the European Committee for Social Rights to address potential implementation gap at national level;
- explore the synergies between the European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights to enhance the effective implementation of social and economic rights at national level;
- deepen knowledge on how to better protect the right to housing in Europe and identify concrete measures to address the emerging threats to its guarantee through a cross-sectoral and human rights-based approach with multi-stakeholder partnerships.

OBJECTIVES

The 7th Meeting of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights will aim in particular at:

- improving the understanding of emerging challenges to the successful promotion and guarantee of the right to housing in Europe and discussing possible responses;
- clarifying and deepening the understanding of existing tools to promote and guarantee the right to housing in Europe by highlighting and capitalising on the synergies between the legal and political frameworks of the Council of Europe and the European Union;
- exploring and developing concrete solutions to bridge the gaps in the implementation of the right to housing in Europe through a cross-sectoral and human rights-based approach with multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Participants will also identify next steps for the Platform and elaborate the outline for the next meeting.

FORMAT / WORKING LANGUAGE(S)

The meeting will be held in plenary. The working languages will be English and French.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

<i>9 a.m.</i>	<i>Registration</i>
<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	Opening Session Welcome and introductory remarks: Jan Malinowski, Head of Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe
	Setting up the scene: challenges for the effective safeguarding of the right to housing in Europe
<i>9:45 a.m.</i>	Moderator: Grigorios Tsioukas, Seconded National Expert, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Trends, current challenges and new developments in the field of right to housing in Europe – experience of NHRIs and NEBs Introduction by Peter Verhaeghe, Caritas Europe, representative of the Council of Europe Conference of INGOS Tour de table Discussion
<i>10:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>

Towards efficient protection of the right to housing in Europe: the international response

11 a.m. Moderator: Tamas Kadar, Head of Legal and Policy Team, the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

Synergies between the European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights

Speaker: Olivier de Schutter, Professor, University of Louvain (UCL), member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Discussion

Moderator: Tamas Kadar, Head of Legal and Policy Team, the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

The effectiveness of existing housing rights frameworks and tools at the European / international level. The role of National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies.

Panelists:

Henrik Kristensen, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights

Maria Jose Aldanas Sanchez, Policy Officer at European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

European Commission (tbc)

Grigorios Tsioukas, Seconded National Expert, FRA

Olivier de Schutter, Professor, University of Louvain (UCL), member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Chrisoula Arcoudis, Seconded National Expert, Roma and Travellers Unit, Council of Europe

Tatjana Prijić, Senior Advisor, Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality of Serbia

Claude Cahn, UN OHCHR's Regional Office for Europe

Discussion

1 p.m. *Lunch break*

Towards efficient protection of the right to housing in Europe: the national response

2:30p.m.

Good practices of National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies as regards:

- Right to housing from the point of view of discrimination (individual complaints)
- Promotion of rights
- Structural change (legislative advise)

Moderator: Cecilia Ines De Armas Michelis, Human Rights Policy Assistant, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

Panelists:

Marion Sandner, Senior Associate – Treaty Monitoring, Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom

Lucas Roorda, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, the Netherlands

Anete Ilves, Legal counsellor of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights Division, Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

Mélodie Le Hay, Chargée de mission, Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme (CNDCH), France

Discussion

4 p.m.

Coffee break

Concrete solutions and next steps for the Platform

Moderator: Nina Panikova, Human Rights Officer, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

4:15 p.m.

Discussion on the Platform 4SocialRights output with a view to providing specific and actionable guidance on the effective engagement of national equality bodies and human rights institutions with the European Committee of Social Rights, the implementation of the European Social Charter and synergies with the Social Pillar, to address potential gaps in implementation at national level.

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

General discussion (CoE, FRA, ENNHRI, EQUINET)

5:15-5:30 p.m.

Conclusions of the meeting

Tanya Montanari, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe