

14 March, 2023

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Vote for minimum income schemes guaranteed to lift people over the poverty line.

On Wednesday 15 March, MEPs will vote on the European Parliament resolution on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion. As leading European-wide social rights organisations representing some of those most at risk of poverty, we urge you to vote in favour of the resolution, and in particular the call for a much-needed EU framework directive on adequate minimum income.

Shockingly, the vast majority of schemes are so inadequate that they are failing to bring people over the poverty line, a situation that has remained unchanged for decades. In fact, over half of EU countries' schemes fail to provide a minimum standard of living and less than 50% of households in extreme poverty are receiving support. An EU Directive is needed to ensure that Member States raise the adequacy of their minimum income schemes to a level above the poverty line.

In 2021, EU leaders pledged to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty by at least 15 million by 2030. This minimum income resolution and its call for a Directive is a chance for the European Parliament to demonstrate commitment to this goal of tackling poverty and protecting the most vulnerable.

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. Over 80% of Europeans want their national governments to take further measures to reduce income inequalities.

Let's get everyone over the line. Vote for the resolution on Wednesday and show the European Parliament's support for an EU Directive on Minimum Income.

Sincerely,
Over the Line Campaign

