



JOINT APPEAL OF EUROPEAN NGOs TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN FOOD AID

Brussels, 20 March 2019

Together, we, NGOs implementing food aid in Europe,

- witness that almost one in four European is living in poverty; 34 million of them are suffering from severe material deprivation;
- raise awareness about the emergency and seriousness of such situations and the growing precarity faced by millions of people – including children, families, elderly and young people, students - across Europe;
- underline that our work allows to provide millions of Europeans with food assistance; for more than 16 million of them, this assistance is granted by the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).

Thus, our NGOs state the necessity of food aid in the European Union. These practices allow to

- provide vital assistance to people facing poverty or precarity thanks to unconditional acceptance;
- beyond providing food, develop other accompanying measures to support people living in poverty and precarity: providing job search assistance and ensuring access to culture, leisure, legal assistance, healthcare, vacation, sports and courses on healthy diets;
- support Europeans' health by providing diversified food aid based on quality products.
- promote volunteer commitment as a concrete illustration of the irreplaceable European solidarity;
- help people living in isolated territories and struggling with difficulties;
- tackle food waste by collecting unsold proper food products;

However, the share of the European budget supporting food aid is to be reduced as from 2021.

We, NGOs,

- alert about the risk of hunger for millions of Europeans in the absence of increased financial resources for food assistance;
- call on the European Union to make food aid a top budgetary priority for the 2021-2027 period;
- call upon every EU Member State to increase resources dedicated to food aid;

Signatories :

Belgium

Association pour la Solidarité Etudiante en Belgique (ASEB)

Finland

Kirkkopalvelut

France

Secours populaire français

Croix-Rouge française

Fédération française des Banques alimentaires

Restaurants du cœur

Greece

Laïkí allilengýi (Popular Solidarity)

Ireland

Mid West Simon Community

Italy

Nonna Roma / ARCI

Luxembourg

Den Cent Buttek

Poland

Polski Komitet Pomocy Społecznej (Polish Committee of Social Welfare)