

Dear member of the European Parliament,

You have been elected as a member of the European Parliament for the new legislature starting in 2009.



You are assuming an important responsibility by representing not only your political constituency but in fact all people in the European Union member states. Your actions and choices will have an impact on all people within and beyond the European Union.

Hundreds of thousands of Caritas workers – paid staff and volunteers – are concretely engaged in the fight against poverty, and in promoting integral human development and justice.

Our key areas of competence are social inclusion and social cohesion; migration, asylum, integration and human trafficking; international cooperation.

We ask you – as newly elected member of the European Parliament – to support us – and the people we serve – by bringing our messages to the agenda of the appropriate political discussions.

Caritas experts from all over Europe look forward to support these efforts by sharing with you our knowledge and experience, and by engaging in constructive dialogue with you on the issues concerned.

With all my best wishes for your important work !



Erny Gillen

President, Caritas Europa

Brussels, June 2009



Our messages to the European Parliament on international cooperation

1. We call upon the European Parliament to actively apply the common principles defined by The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in related working fields; in particular the **core Humanitarian Principles** of Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality and Independence.
2. Climate change impacts heavily on people and communities in the poorest countries and results in increasing humanitarian catastrophes. We ask the European Parliament to champion **climate justice** and to demonstrate leadership in international climate change policy negotiations, with a focus on **adaptation programs** as a means to reduce the risk of disasters.
3. Global solidarity must benefit everybody. We urge the European Parliament to use its budgetary powers to ensure that the EU keeps its commitment regarding **levels of international aid** while improving the **effectiveness of this aid** in order to achieve a greater impact on poverty, and to encourage member states to do the same.
4. We call upon the European Parliament to consistently comply with the EU Treaty's principle of **policy coherence for development**, in particular with regard to just trade and migration policies based on human rights.

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Caritas EUROPA

WELCOMES THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT





Our overall vision for Europe and the European Union

Caritas envisions Europe as a continent where:

- Human dignity, human rights and solidarity between people and nations are shared values.
- Poverty and social exclusion are ultimately eradicated.
- Civil dialogue and participatory democracy are flourishing.
- Effective action is taken to promote integral human development around the world.



Our messages to the European Parliament on social inclusion and social cohesion

1. We recommend the European Parliament to embrace the opportunity of the **European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion** to deal with old but also with new forms of poverty and exclusion in Europe, and to ensure effective strategies to address them.
2. We invite the European Parliament to draw attention of member states to the importance of **reinforcing social protection systems** and **improving their effectiveness** to prevent poverty in their countries.
3. Especially in this time of crises, we call upon the European Parliament to decisively balance the **revised Post-Lisbon Strategy** with **an enhanced social vision**, where also the poor, the vulnerable, those who are excluded from society, as well as those who are furthest from the labour market can find their place.



Our messages to the European Parliament on migration, asylum, integration and human trafficking

1. We remind the European Parliament that it can concretely impact on **labour migration policy**. Circular migration requires a legal framework **protecting the rights of migrant workers** and measures **promoting mobility** through access to information and support for reintegration. **Integration support** must be offered to all people who come to the EU, even if on a temporary basis.
2. We urge the European Parliament to **safeguard the right to international protection** by establishing higher standards in the Common European Asylum System, in particular through a revision of the Asylum Procedures Directive and the Refugee Qualification Directive.
3. We encourage the European Parliament to impact on migration, asylum, anti-trafficking and integration throughout the **adoption process of the Stockholm Programme** and to look beyond the period of its mandate on what is needed for further developments in these areas.