

# PE EMMAUS EUROPE EMMAUS EUR EMMAÜS EUROPE EMMAÜS EUROPE DPA EMAÚS EUROPA EMAÚS EUR

## Peace and living together in Europe meeting

**The European Parliament's work should promote peace and social inclusion.**

**15 December 2015: 14:00 - 17:00**

European Parliament – (TBC), Strasbourg, France.

Room F01101 - Pierre Pflimlin building

- 14:00 - 14:15: Welcome session and word of welcome.
- 14:15 – 14:30: Willi Does, President of Emmaus Europe, presents the aims of the meeting.

**The aim is to facilitate the Emmaus Movement's work across Europe, specifically the work it does supporting the most underprivileged people as they seek to reintegrate society. For instance: obtaining official recognition of a European status for the people working in our groups.**

**Emmaus' concerns for Europe's future. The European institutions' programme for 2016**

- **14:30 – 15:30 – Part I: The migration package.**

### **What humane solution for migrants can we put forward?**

Potential initiatives and legislative proposals on this topic.

Q&A session between the MEPs and meeting participants.

- **15:45 – 16:30 – Part II: The circular economy package**

### **How can progress be made in this area? How can the future be people-focused?**

Potential initiatives and legislative proposals on this topic.

Q&A session between the MEPs and meeting participants.

- 16:45 – 17:00: Conclusions and prospects for the next meeting at the European Parliament

belgique bosna i hercegovina danmark deutschland espana france Ykpaiha ita-  
lia nederland polska portugal românia suisse sverige suomi united kingdom

N° SIRET : 489 855 122 00029

CODE APE : 9499Z

BANCA ETICA IBAN : IT41 F050 1812 1000 0000 0115 777



47, avenue de la Résistance  
F - 93104 Montreuil Cedex  
TEL : +33 (0)1 41 58 25 70  
www.emmaus-europe.org  
contact@emmaus-europe.org

# PEEMMAUS EUROPE EMMAUS EUR EMMAÜS EUROPE EMMAÜS EUROPE DPA EMAÚS EUROPA EMAÚS EUR

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Maybe you were unaware but...Emmaus has a foothold throughout the European Union. In Europe, Emmaus comprises 303 groups, 17 countries and over 20,000 people. Socially-excluded and deprived people find refuge in our communities. People find a place, and recognition, and have their dignity and independence restored by work in this society that has lost its bearings.

At a time when our groups witness first-hand the distress and failings of society, Emmaus, boasting over 60 years of commitment to the cause, embodies **a true economic, social and environmental alternative**. Our grassroots capacity for action and diversity are undeniable.

### Presentation of Emmaus: Who are we?

**Emmaus is a secular and independent movement.** It draws its strength and originality from the **work** done by people experiencing great difficulties in a spirit of solidarity and peace. Work is a means for these socially-excluded people to reintegrate society and regain their dignity.

When the bitterly cold winter of 1954 was claiming many lives, in France Abbé Pierre made a radio appeal for there to be "*an uprising of kindness*". From 1949, communities started to be created in France with the aim being to house people who were in distress so that they could regain their dignity and independence by collecting unwanted items and materials and sorting, repairing, upcycling and selling them.

In 1949, the terminology used was very simple – the companions were ragpickers and lived on the margins of society.

The terminology has now changed and nowadays we talk about the 'solidarity economy', the 'circular economy' and 'commonly-held resources'. We are now aware that recycling is no longer a fringe activity and instead has become vital for our environment. It is an almost inexhaustible 'reservoir' of resources. The development of Emmaus goes to show

belgique bosna i hercegovina danmark deutschland espana france Ykpaïha ita-  
lia nederland polska portugal românia suisse sverige suomi united kingdom

N° SIRET : 489 855 122 00029

CODE APE : 9499Z

BANCA ETICA IBAN : IT41 F050 1812 1000 0000 0115 777



47, avenue de la Résistance  
F - 93104 Montreuil Cedex  
TEL : +33 (0)1 41 58 25 70  
www.emmaus-europe.org  
contact@emmaus-europe.org

# PEEMMAUS EUROPE EMMaUS EUR EMMaÜS EUROPE EMMaÜS EUROPE )PA EMAÚS EUROPA EMAÚS EUR

.....  
that there are both enormous needs and potential.

Nowadays, the Emmaus Movement has a foothold and works in 40 countries across Europe, America, Africa and Asia.

At the present time, there are **303 Emmaus groups and communities working in Europe**. The solutions they offer differ from one Member State to another.

## What the European groups do

- **Solidarity economy work:** Collecting, repairing and selling second-hand goods. Offering shelter and support, training, reintegration of residents through work, protecting the environment and developing Fair Trade.
- **Social housing and aid initiatives** (emergency housing, social support): support for the most socially-excluded people (taking in and supporting migrants, human trafficking victims) and offering advice on managing household budgets.
- **Initiatives to safeguard human rights:** Grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities about migrant and minority rights.
- **European and international solidarity initiatives** by sending container loads of goods and exchanging experiences and activities with Emmaus groups in other countries.

## Emmaus Europe's remit

Emmaus Europe's stated aim is to:

- Publicize all the activities and success stories generated by the Emmaus groups in Europe.
- Show what Emmaus does best.
- Monitor legislation and negotiations about draft directives and regulations on the topics of migration and the social and solidarity economy in Europe.
- Campaign, mobilize the Emmaus groups and alert European and national political representatives about any legislation that could potentially jeopardize human rights and fundamental freedoms.

.....  
belgique bosna i hercegovina danmark deutschland espana france Ykpaïha ita-  
lia nederland polska portugal românia suisse sverige suomi united kingdom

N° SIRET : 489 855 122 00029

CODE APE : 9499Z

BANCA ETICA IBAN : IT41 F050 1812 1000 0000 0115 777



47, avenue de la Résistance  
F - 93104 Montreuil Cedex  
TEL : +33 (0)1 41 58 25 70  
www.emmaus-europe.org  
contact@emmaus-europe.org

# PEEMMAUS EUROPE EMMAUS EUR EMMAÜS EUROPE EMMAÜS EUROPE DPA EMAÚS EUROPA EMAÚS EUR

## Grassroots observations

- The groups' situations are worsening and living conditions are difficult.
- The administrative formalities to obtain residency for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers are constantly changing in line with the emergency measures decided upon by the European Council and Commission and backed by the European Parliament. The tools deployed are a palliative measure in the situation being experienced by society today.
- Grassroots stakeholders are disorientated. The needs are immense. Migrants are perishing at the gates of Europe, are being parked in horrendous detention centres or are being hunted down as soon as they arrive; the Emmaus groups in Europe are experiencing these serious breaches of the principle of humanity every single day. They prove every single day that it is more beneficial to take in migrants and train them to make a dignified living.
- The social and solidarity economy is an alternative to the current economic model: Emmaus recognizes the fundamental principles of this model: it is based on identified needs and uses economic resources with the aim of serving the general good. This economy enables us to go beyond the concept of productivity and to create activity for everyone and social value. **The social and solidarity economy has a promising future!**
- Solidarity economy activities at Emmaus are closely linked to the environment (reuse and collection of unwanted goods) and helps to socially include people who are experiencing difficulties through practical and useful initiatives.
- The current economic system has failed to build a world based on equality and fraternity and has proved unable to leave a habitable planet for future generations.
- Emmaus offers unconditional shelter and support and our door is open to everyone. People have left home, travelled and moved for a whole range of reasons throughout human history. Trying to prevent the people we now call migrants from travelling is a battle against human history, as well as being unproductive, extremely costly, and the source of unacceptable suffering. Emmaus proves every single day that very different people can live and work together peacefully in order to make a living for themselves but also to make our

belgique bosna i hercegovina danmark deutschland espana france Ykpaïha ita-  
lia nederland polska portugal românia suisse sverige suomi united kingdom

N° SIRET : 489 855 122 00029

CODE APE : 9499Z

BANCA ETICA IBAN : IT41 F050 1812 1000 0000 0115 777



47, avenue de la Résistance  
F - 93104 Montreuil Cedex  
TEL : +33 (0)1 41 58 25 70  
[www.emmaus-europe.org](http://www.emmaus-europe.org)  
[contact@emmaus-europe.org](mailto:contact@emmaus-europe.org)

PEEMMAUS EUROPE EMMAUS EUR  
EMMAÜS EUROPE EMMAÜS EUROPE  
)PA EMAÚS EUROPA EMAÚS EUR

.....  
planet a better place to live through their work.

.....  
belgique bosna i hercegovina danmark deutschland espana france Ykpaiha ita-  
lia nederland polska portugal românia suisse sverige suomi united kingdom

N° SIRET : 489 855 122 00029

CODE APE : 9499Z

BANCA ETICA IBAN : IT41 F050 1812 1000 0000 0115 777



47, avenue de la Résistance  
F - 93104 Montreuil Cedex  
TEL : +33 (0)1 41 58 25 70  
www.emmaus-europe.org  
contact@emmaus-europe.org