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Brussels, 18 November 2009

Written Declaration on the protection of social rights when fighting against the economic crisis in the European Union – Your signature is needed to guarantee social cohesion objectives in EU member states under IMF bail-out

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

One of the missions of the European Union laid down in the treaties and reaffirmed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, is to promote and defend social and regional cohesion. This was repeated by Heads of States in March 2009: "Building on solidarity and allowing social protection systems to fully play their role as automatic stabilisers are key to restoring and strengthening confidence and help pave the way for recovery. Particular attention should be given to the most vulnerable and to new risks of exclusion".

And yet, the bail-out plans the IMF and the Commission agreed upon with Latvia, Hungary, Romania and other CEE Member States are not equitable, as they do not take into account wealth inequalities and cut funding for pensions, hospitals, child care, putting the health and well-being of people at risk.

It is now essential to once again confirm the European Parliament's commitment to equity by making sure that enough signatures are gathered to endorse **the EP written declaration on the protection of social rights when fighting against the economic crisis in the European Union.**

Mental Health Europe calls on you to:

- **Sign the European Parliament written declaration** on the protection of social rights when fighting against the economic crisis in the European Union.
- Take action within your political group to make sure that enough signatures are gathered before January 2010.

We trust that you will defend social and regional solidarity in the EU agenda and look forward to your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Nace Kovac
President MHE

Mary Van Dievel
Director MHE